

FAIRY TAIL

1



Hiro Mashima Creator of *Rave Master*

FAIRY TAIL



1

HIRO MASHIMA

Fairy Tail volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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Note from the Author	⇨ ⇨ ⇨ 4
Honorifics Explained	⇨ ⇨ ⇨ 5
Chapter 1: The Fairy's Tail	⇨ ⇨ ⇨ 7
Chapter 2: The Master Appears!	⇨ ⇨ ⇨ 89
Chapter 3: Fire Dragons and Monkeys and Cows	⇨ ⇨ ⇨ 139
Chapter 4: The Celestial Spirit of Canis Minor	⇨ ⇨ ⇨ 169
Afterword	⇨ ⇨ ⇨ 195
Translation Notes	⇨ ⇨ ⇨ 197
Vol. 2 Preview	⇨ ⇨ ⇨ 203



Hello!
To first-time readers...
To longtime readers...
To those who just realized
they bought the wrong book...
To those who are saying,
“Who’re you?”...
I hope you have fun reading this.
This is a classic story of the
friendship between humans
and cats.
Yes.
I got in a lie right from the start!

—Hiro Mashima

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from honorifics in American English, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics.

- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

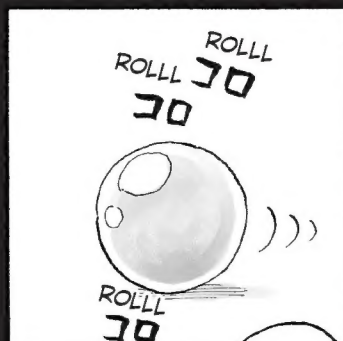
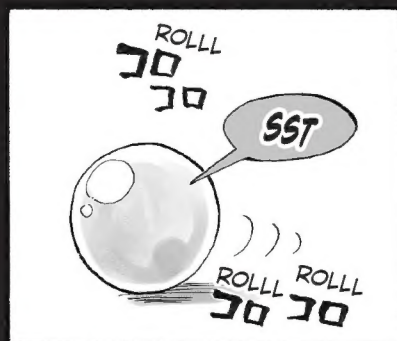
Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



...those
idiots at
Fairy Tail!!

The magical world is
beset with a
mountain of
problems!

And among
them, the
problem to be
solved with the
greatest speed
concerns...

Sh-
Shut
your
mouth!!

How did
these young
cretins
get on the
Council
anyway?

'Cause
we've got
killer magic,
that's why.
You old fart.

Wha-!!

Will both
of you be
silent?!

CHANG

Yes.
Very little
to do...

But I hope
somebody will
stir up some
trouble.

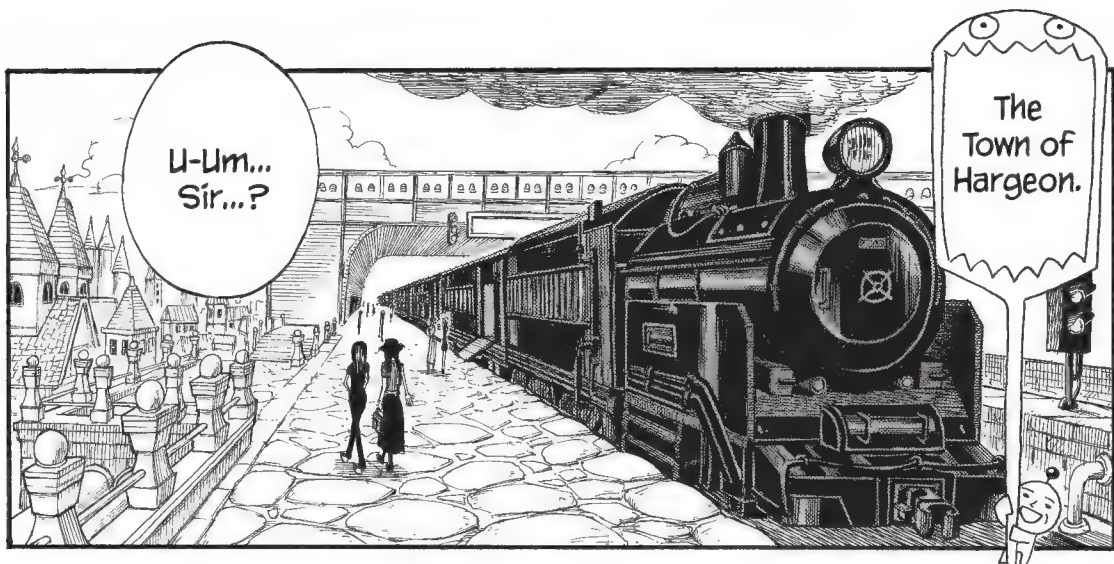


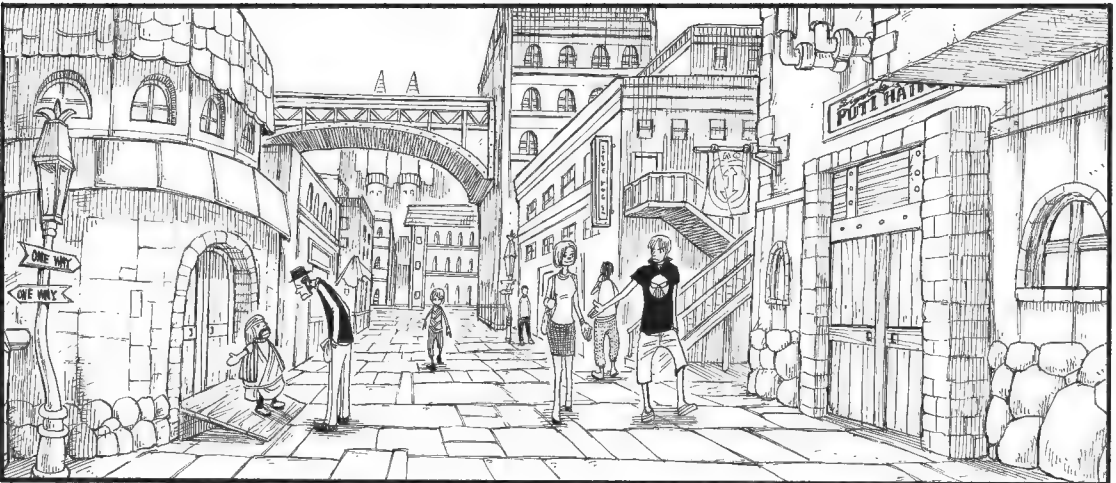
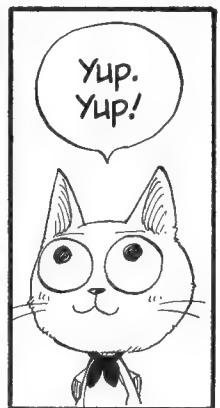
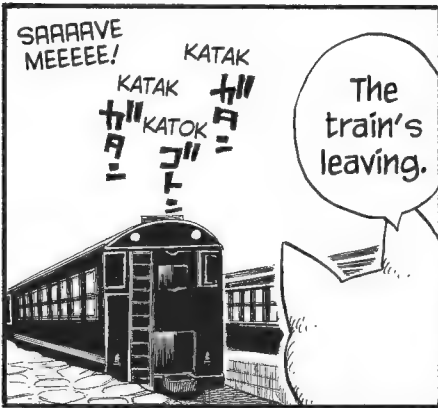
FAIRY TAIL

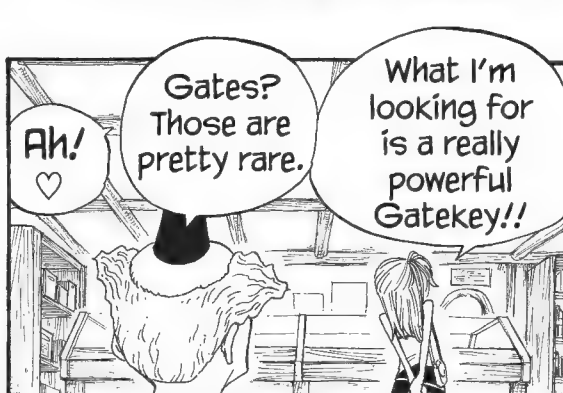


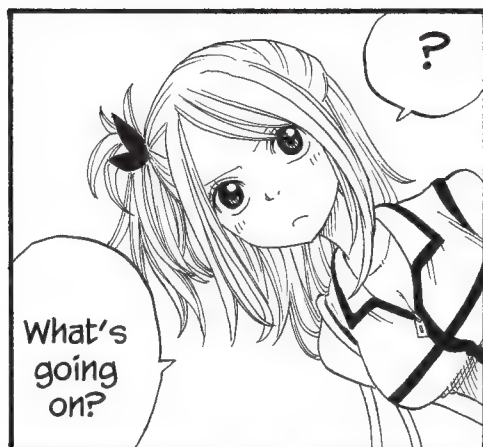
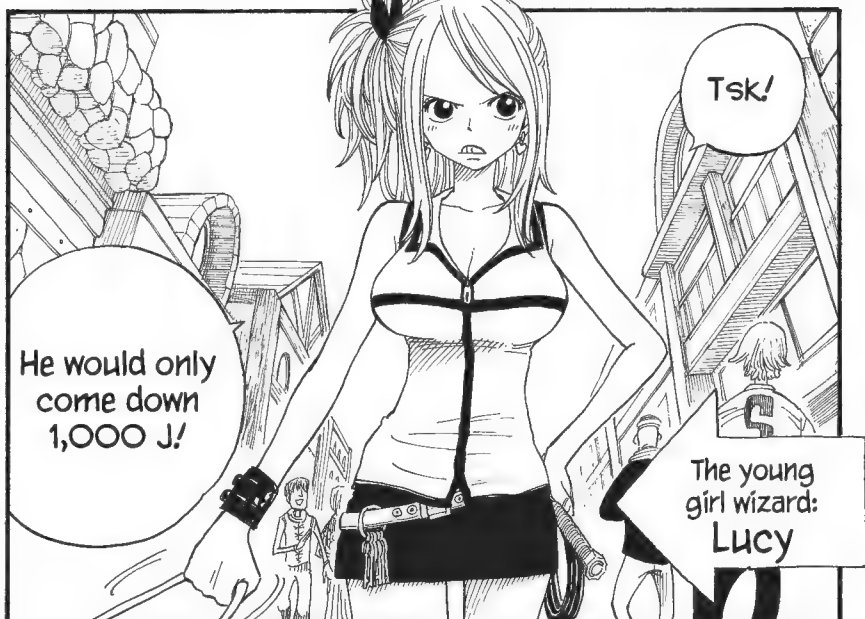
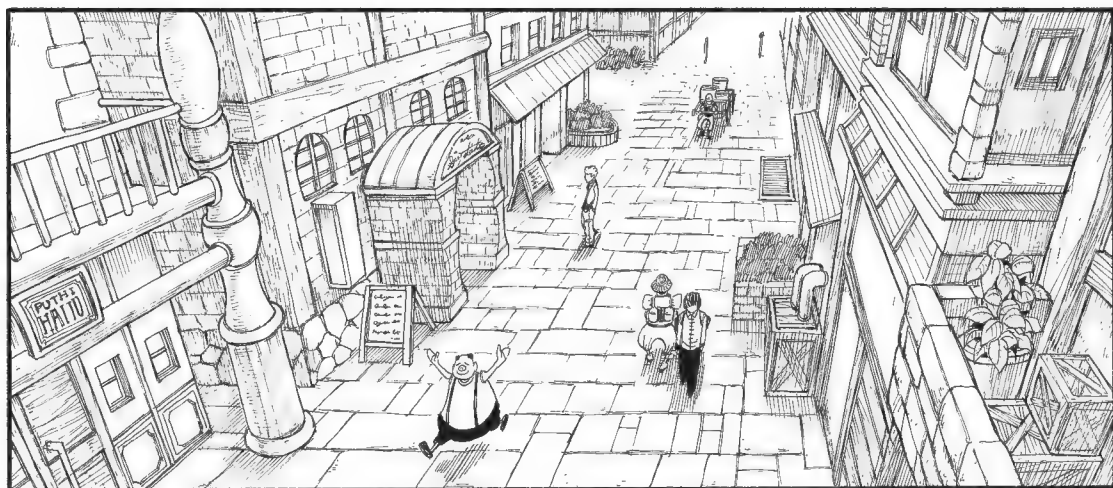
Chapter 1: The Fairy's Tail

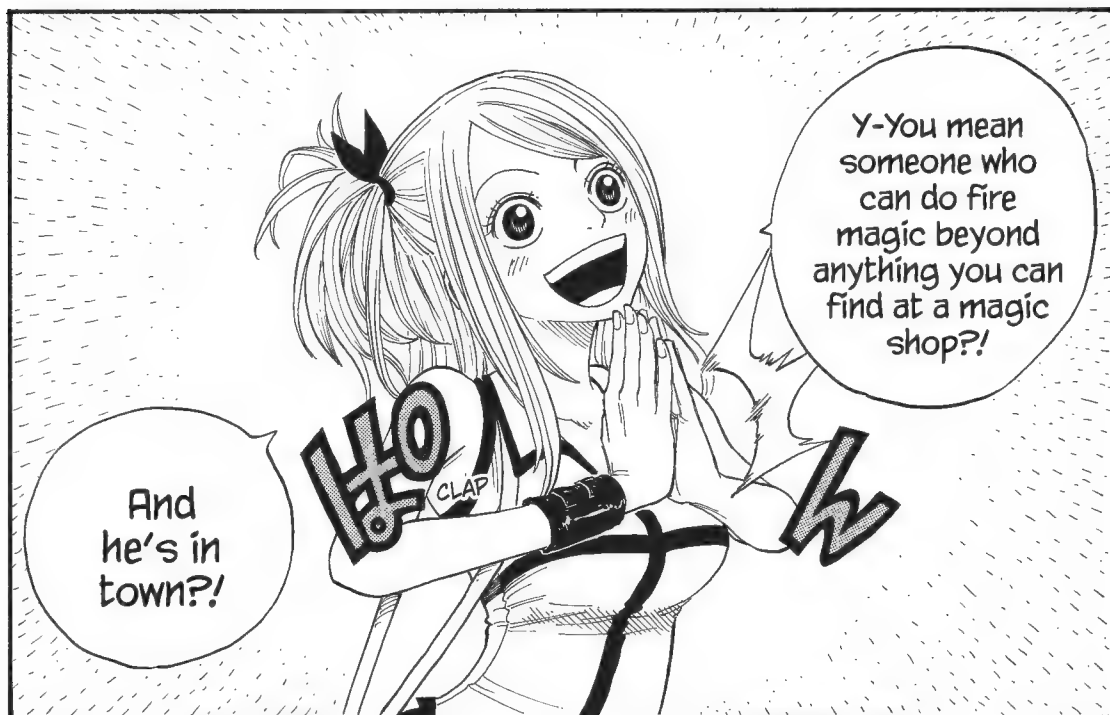






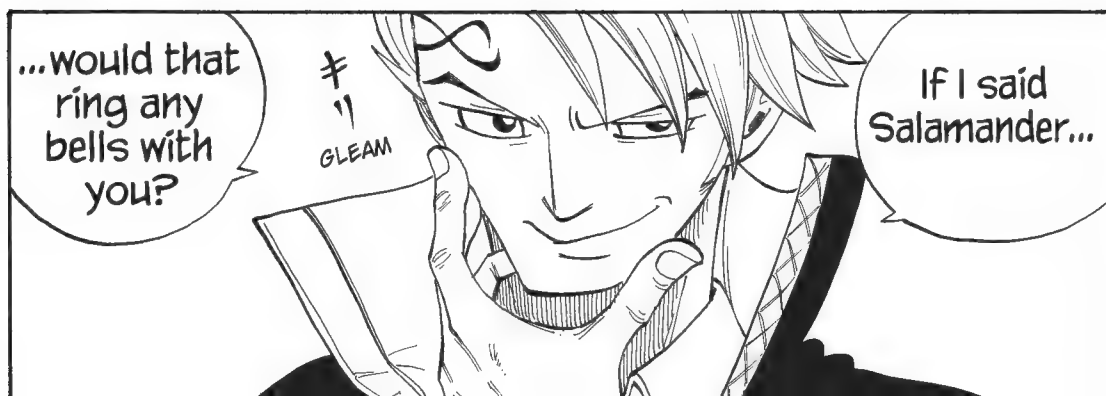
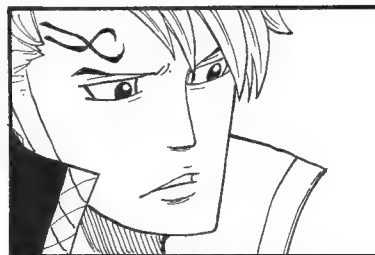
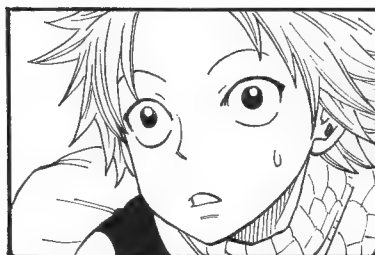
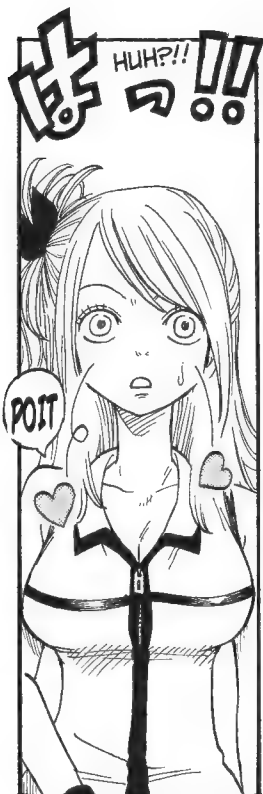


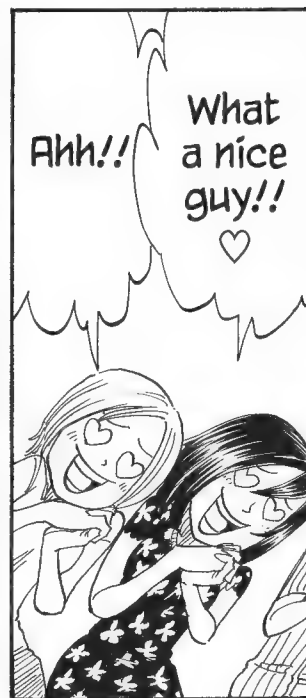
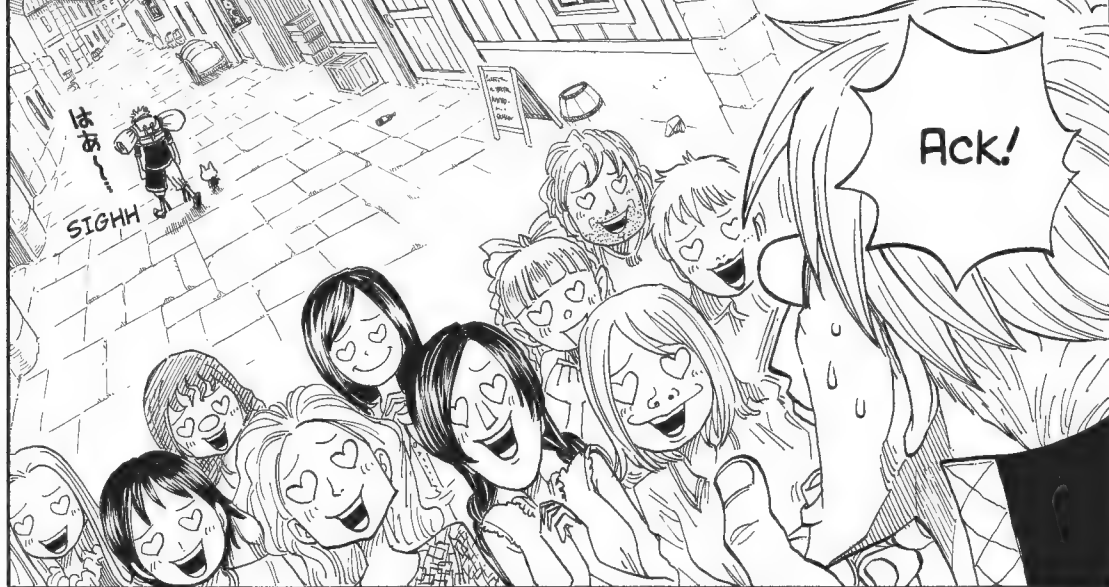


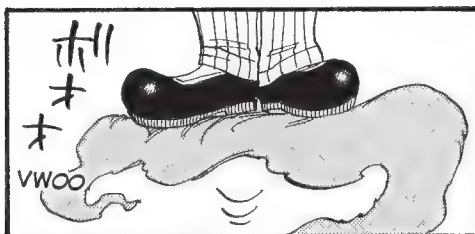
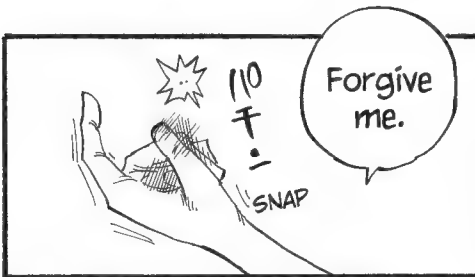


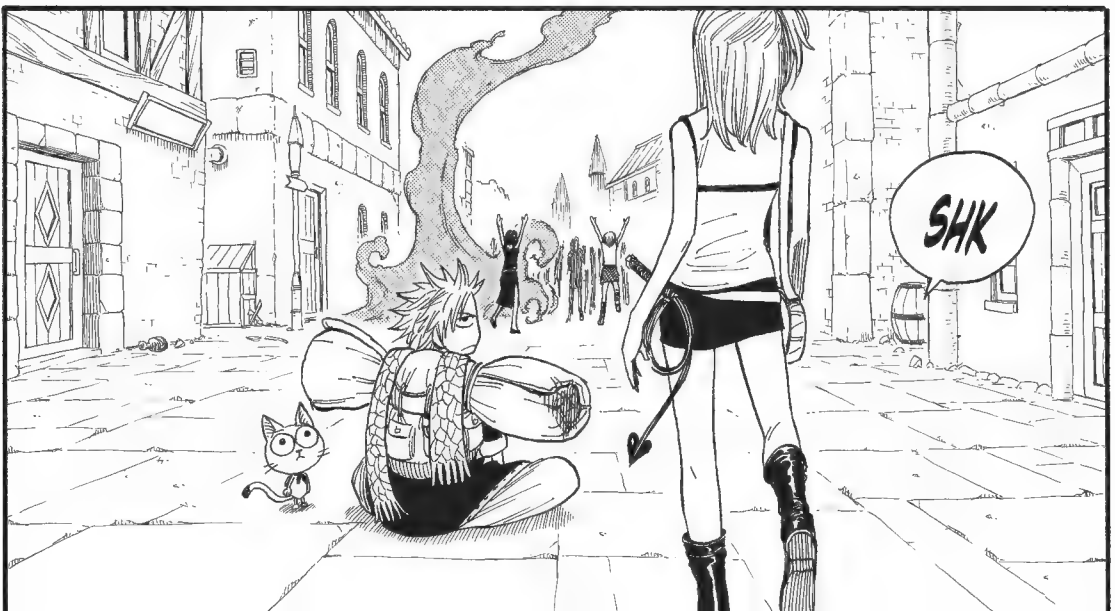
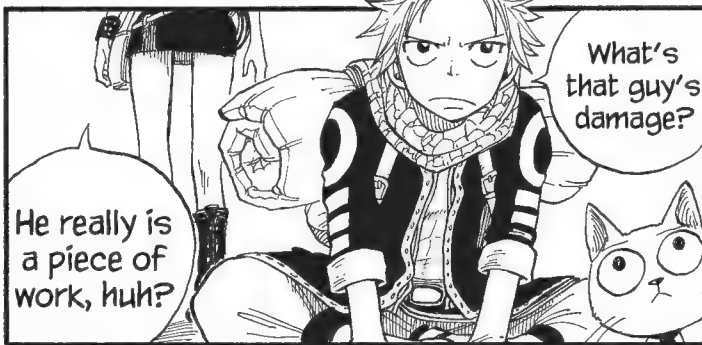
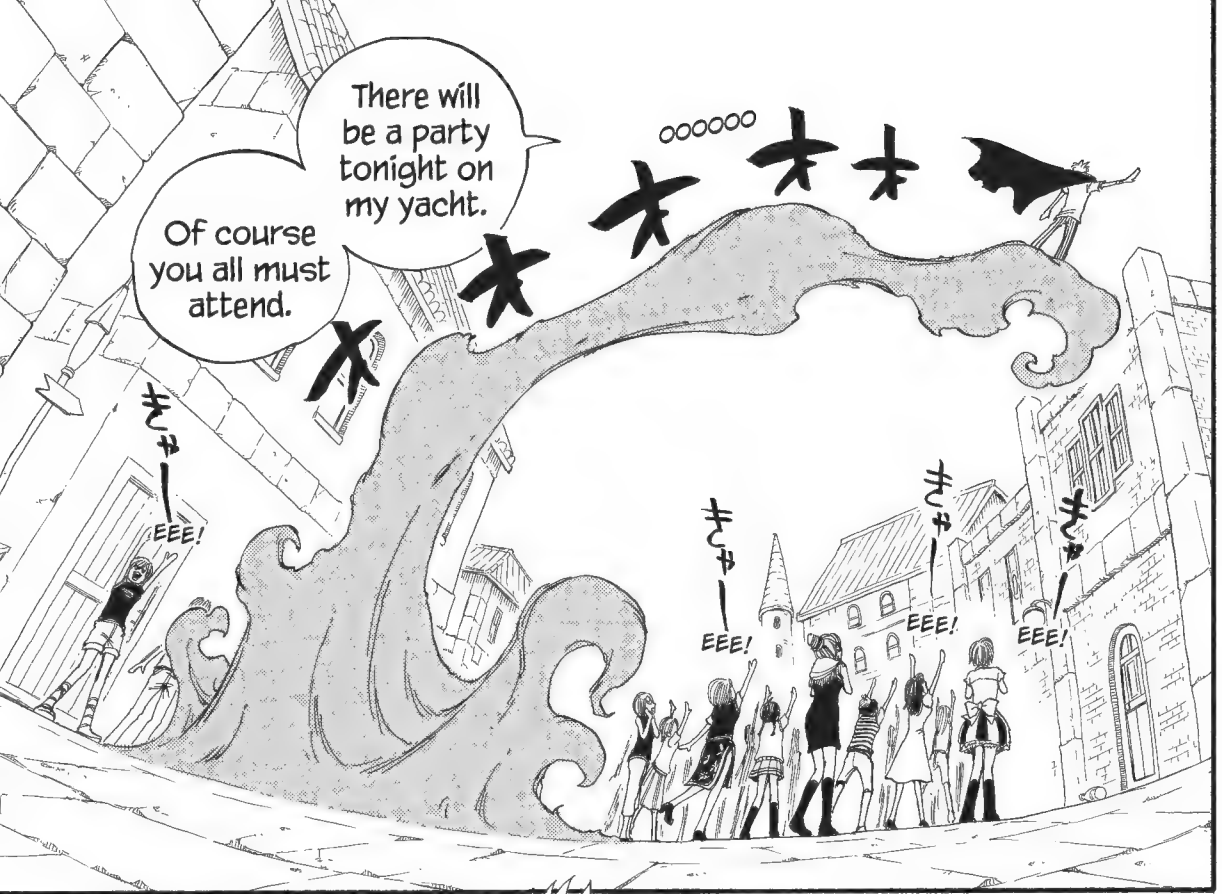


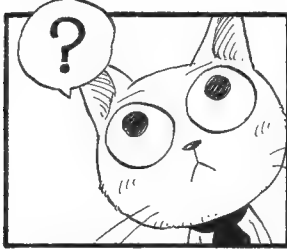


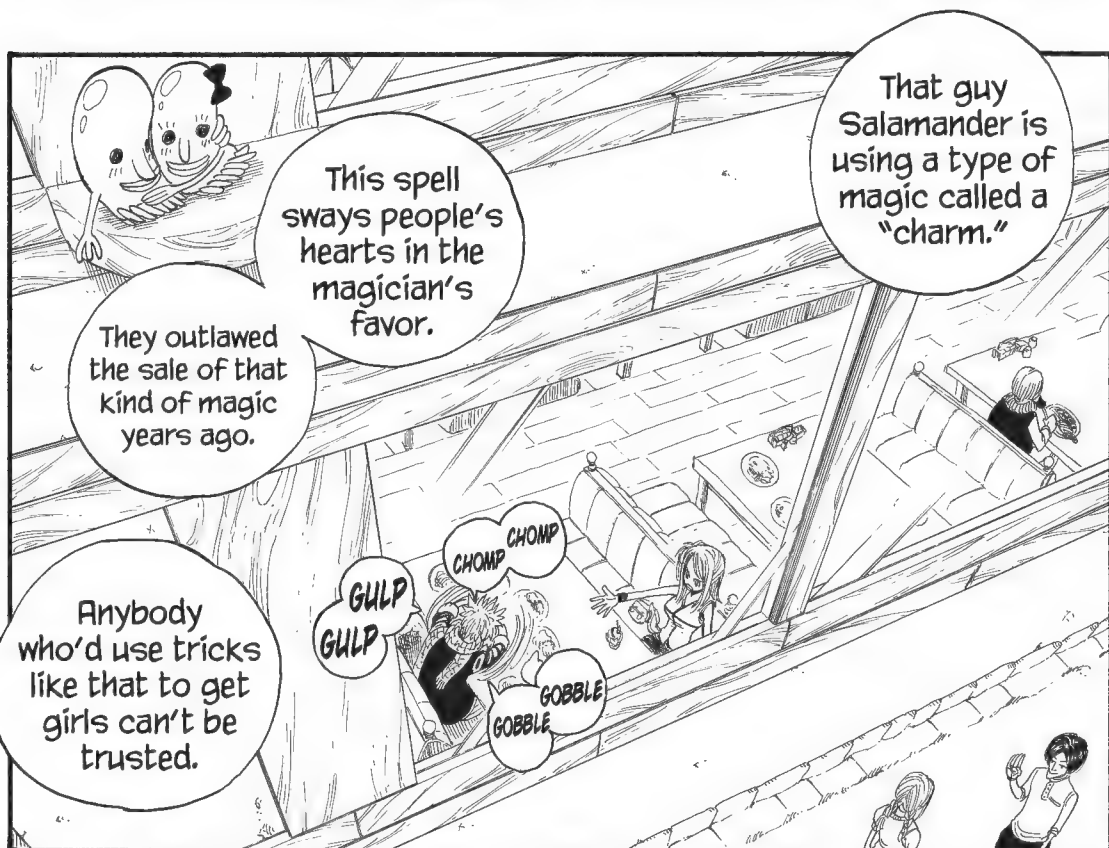
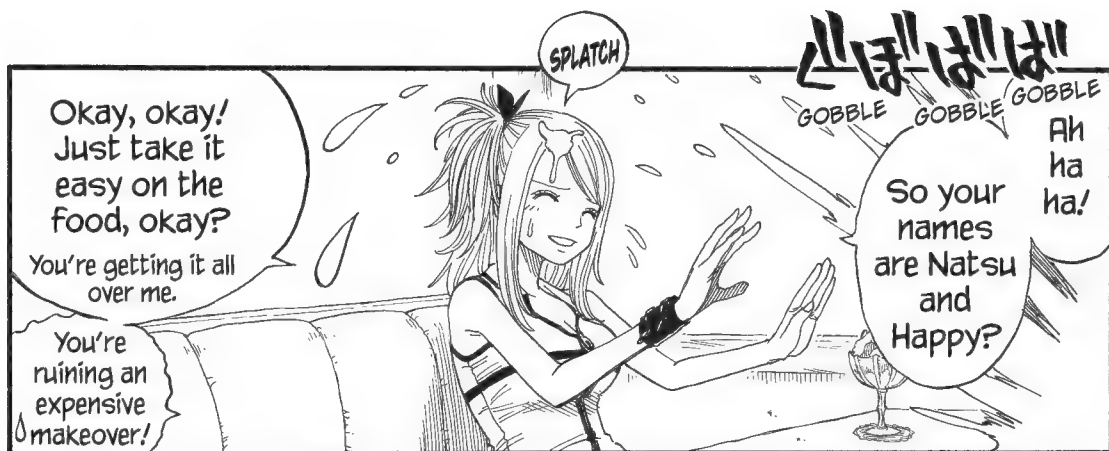














A guild is...

Oh!



It isn't like I'm in a *guild* or anything though.

Reawy?

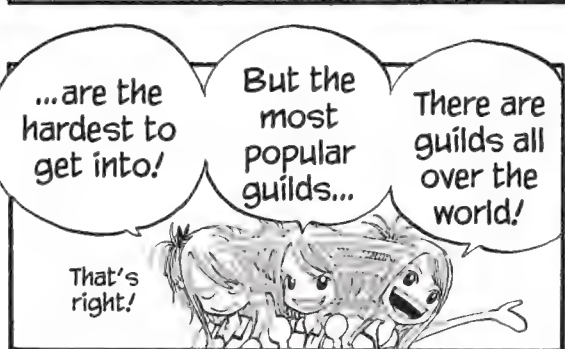
STUFF. STUFF.



They say any wizard who isn't in a guild isn't a real wizard.

The guild acts as a mediator when it comes to wizards' jobs and information.

...a building where wizards gather and confer.



...are the hardest to get into!

But the most popular guilds...

There are guilds all over the world!

That's right!



Listen! Listen!

Mmfgl.

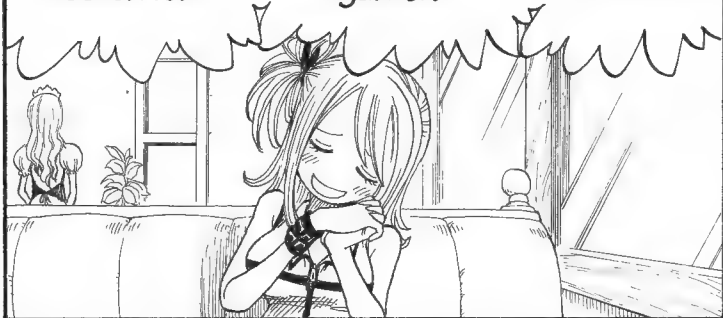
Ah! Sorry!
You don't know
anything about
the world of
wizardry,
do you?

Uh...

Oh, what'll I
do? I want to
get in, but I'm
sure they'll be
so strict.

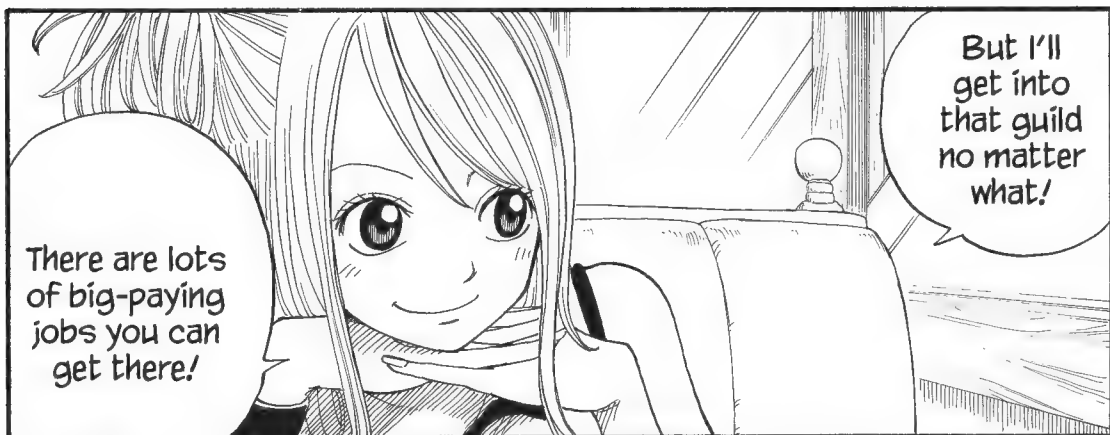
It's a place
where really
incredible
wizards
gather!

There's
one that
I want to
get into!



There are lots
of big-paying
jobs you can
get there!

But I'll
get into
that guild
no matter
what!



Aye. Igneel.

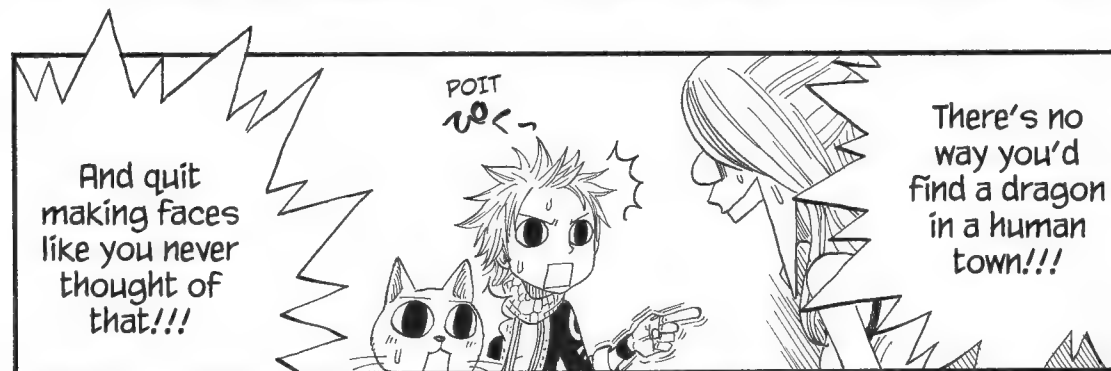
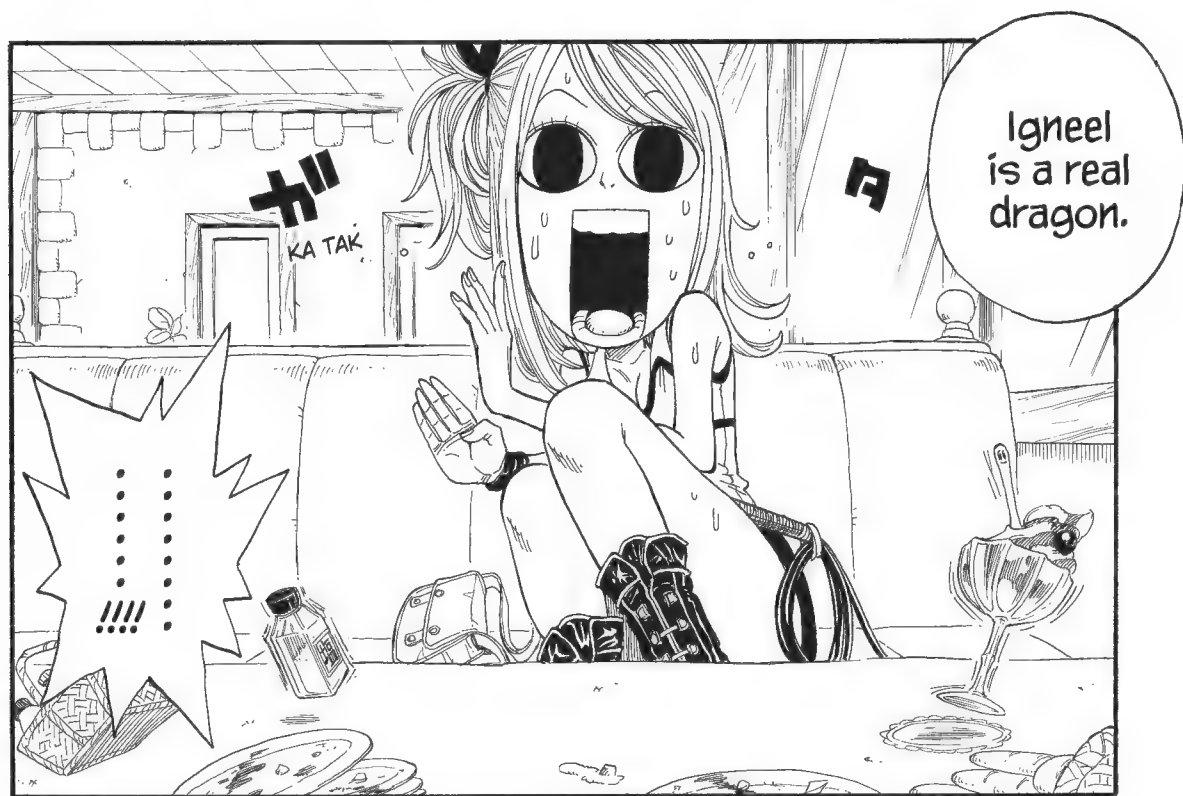
By the way,
you seemed to
be looking for
someone.

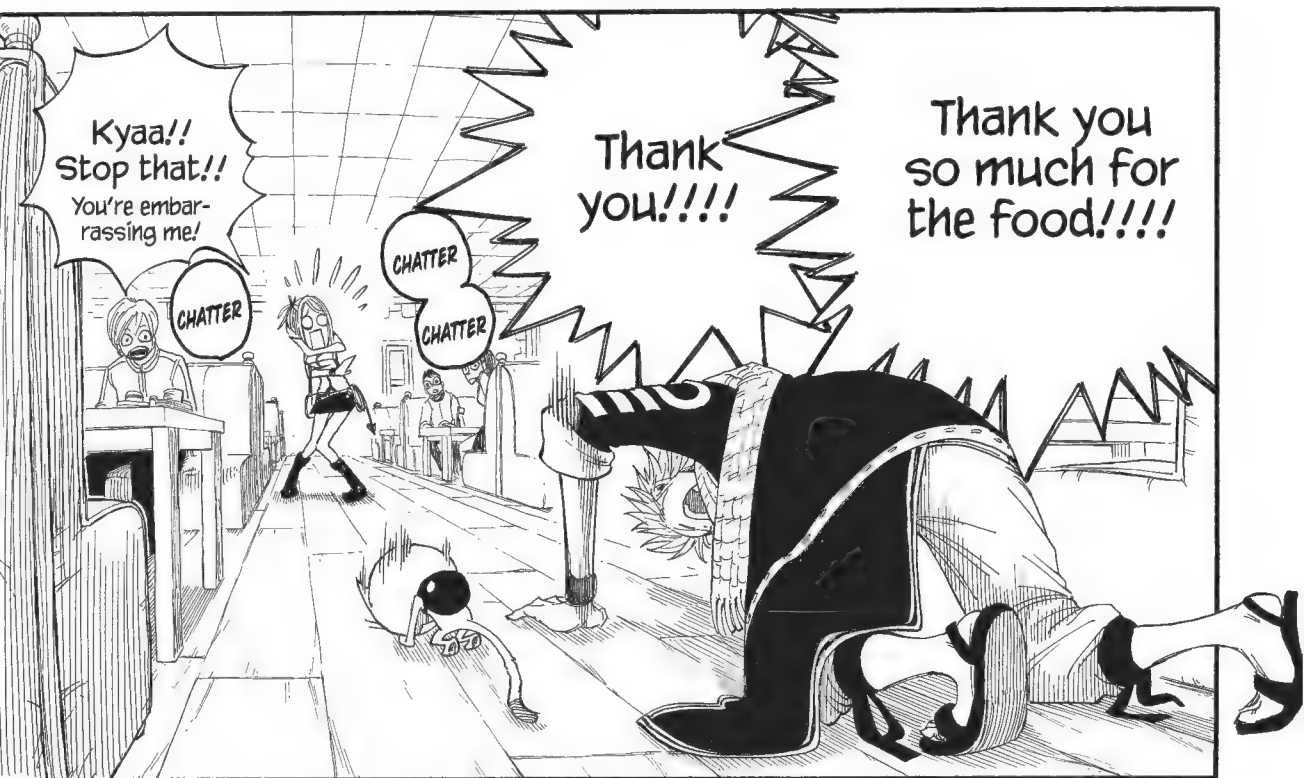
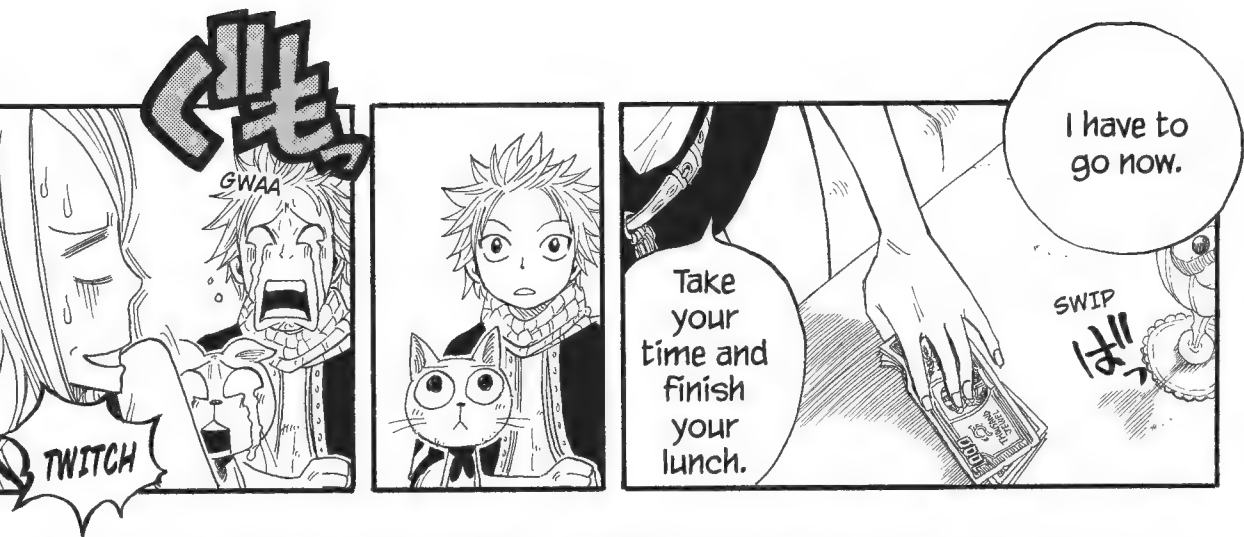


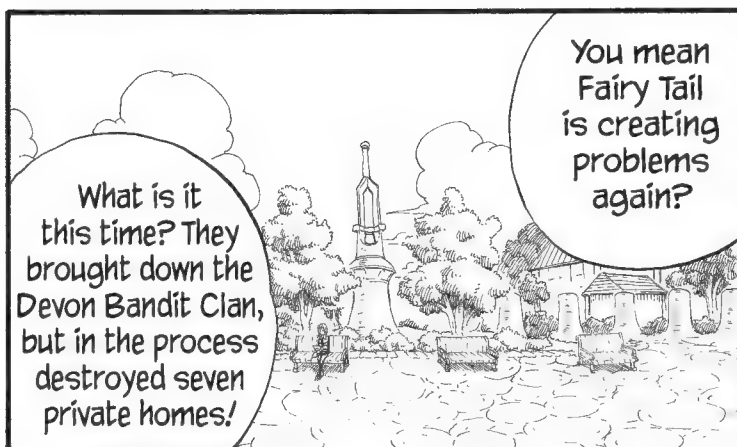
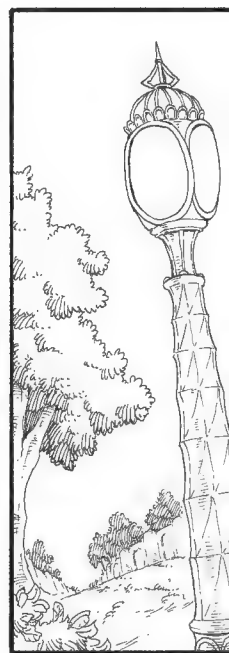
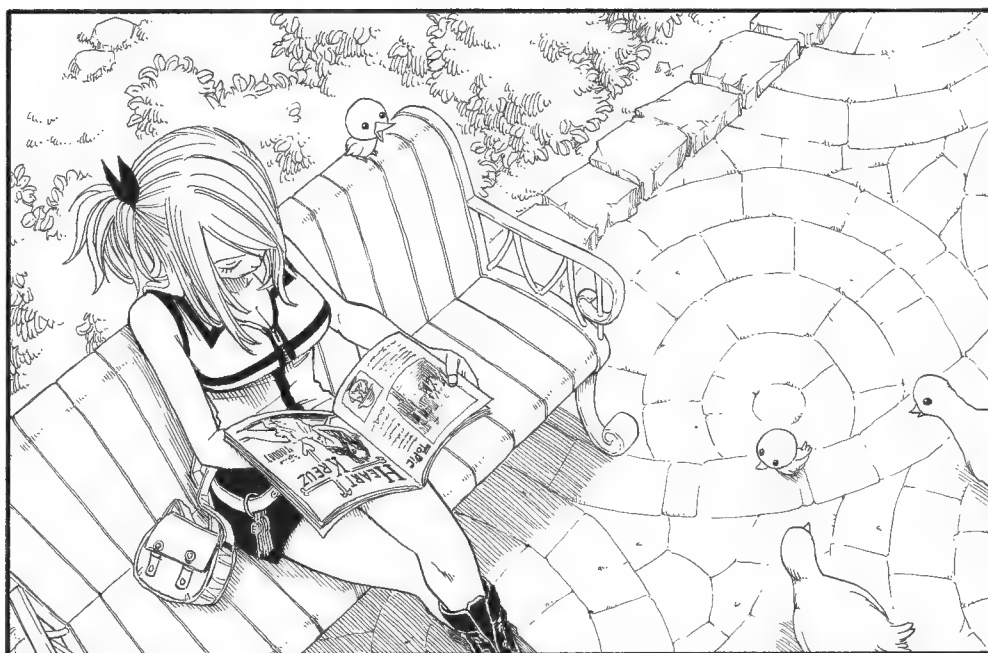
Y-You
fink tho?

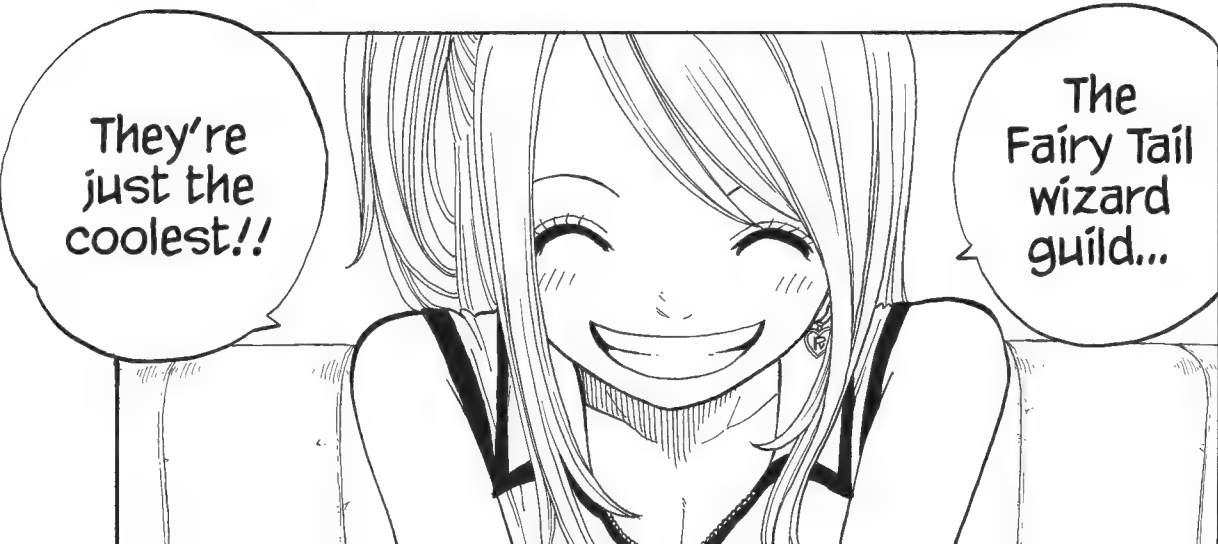
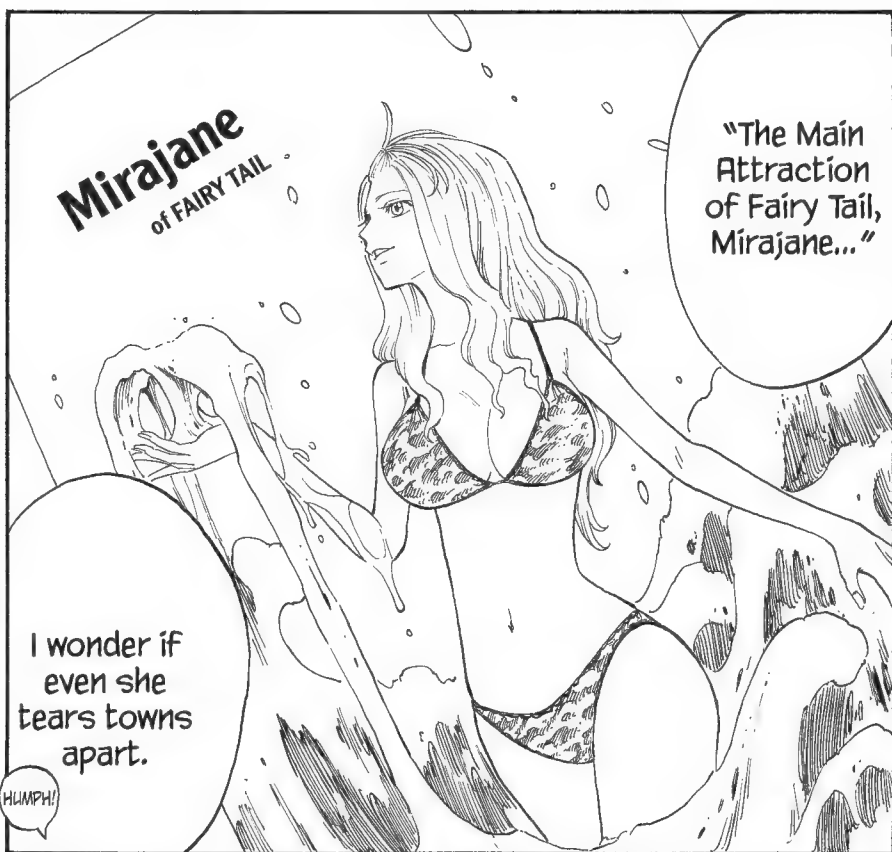
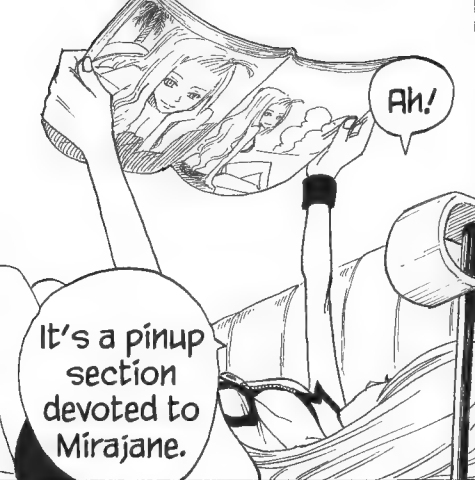
She
talks
a lot.

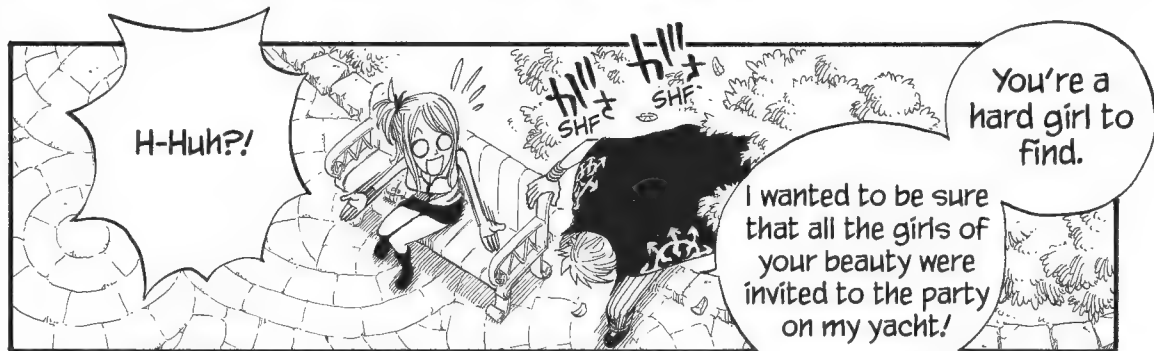
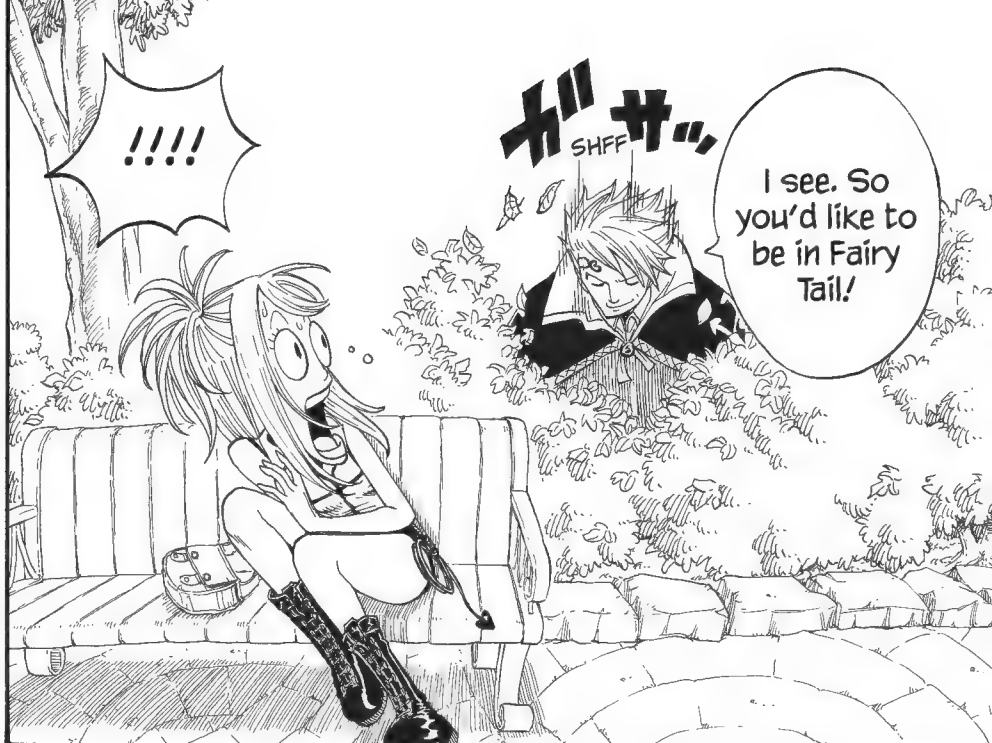


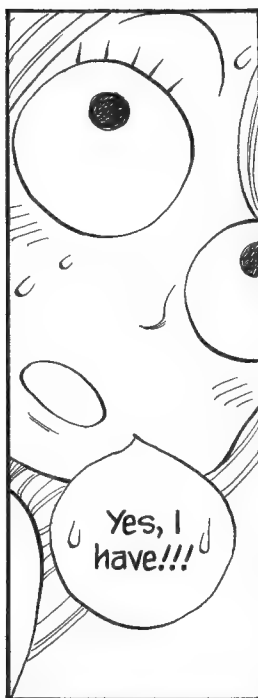


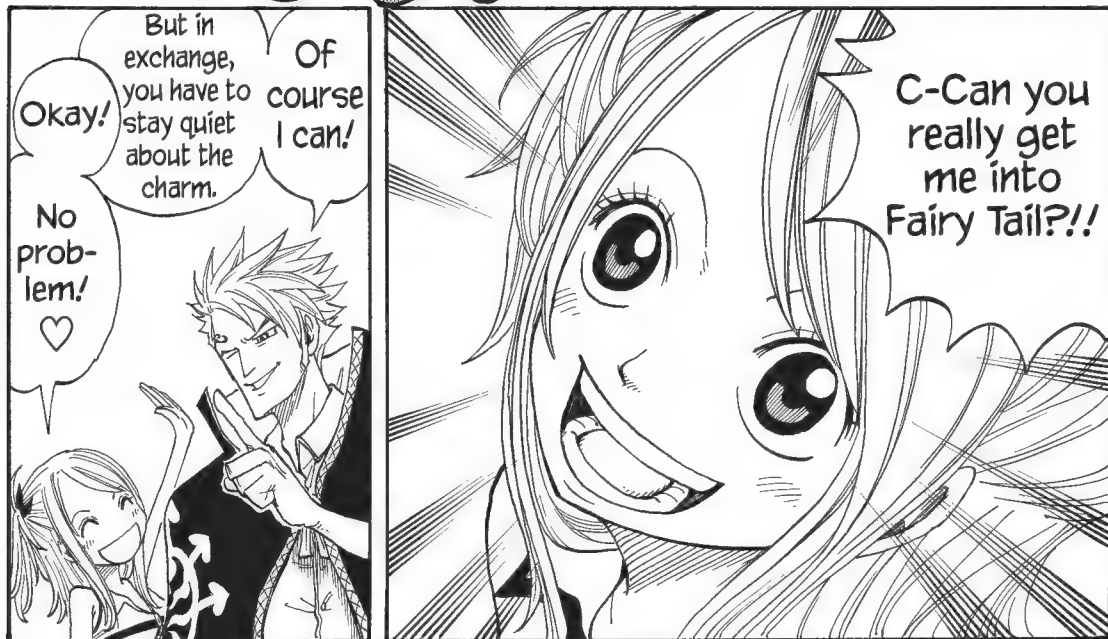
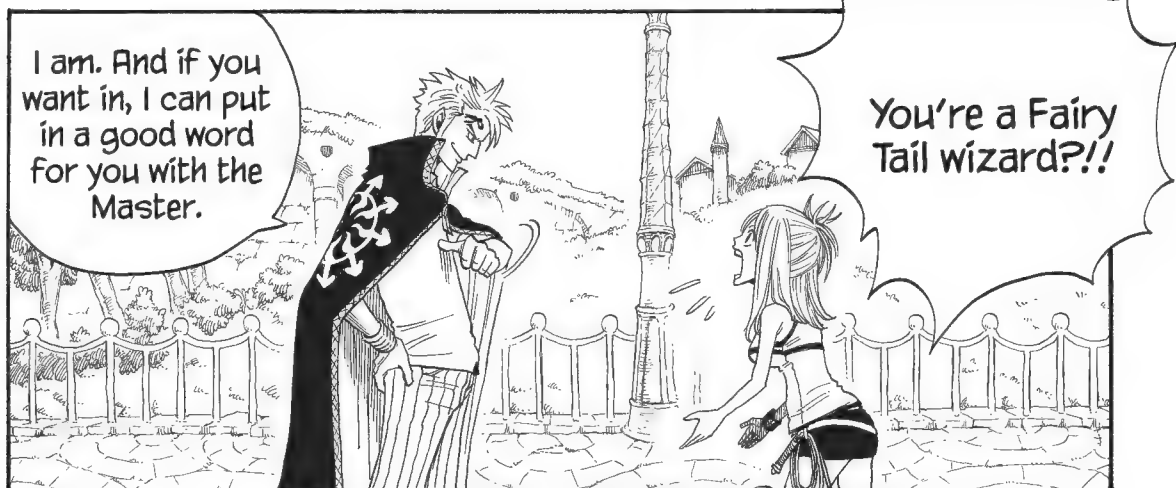


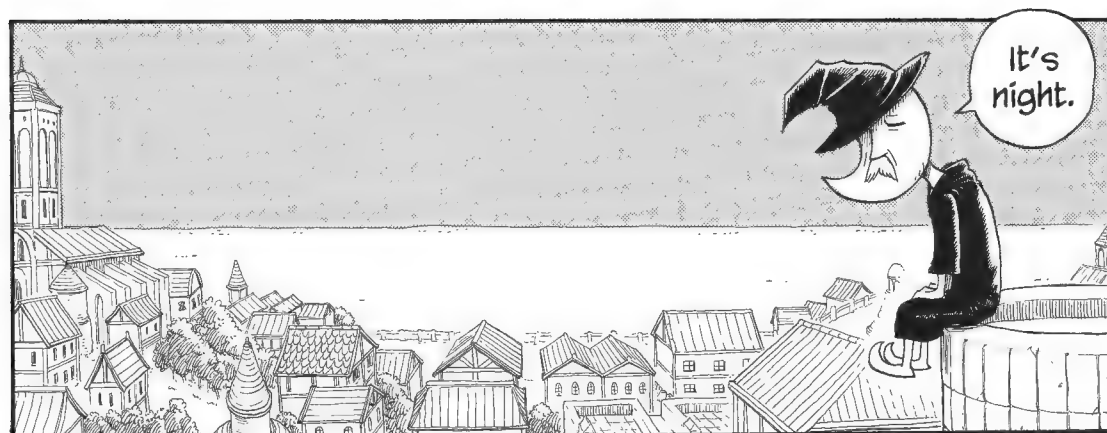
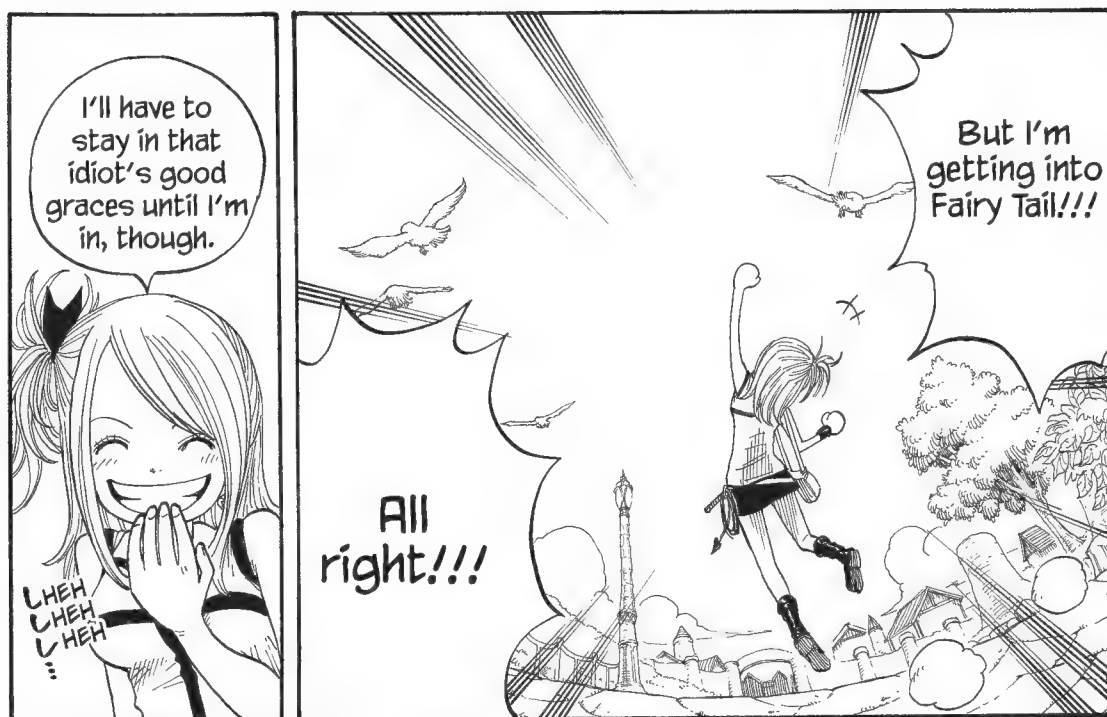
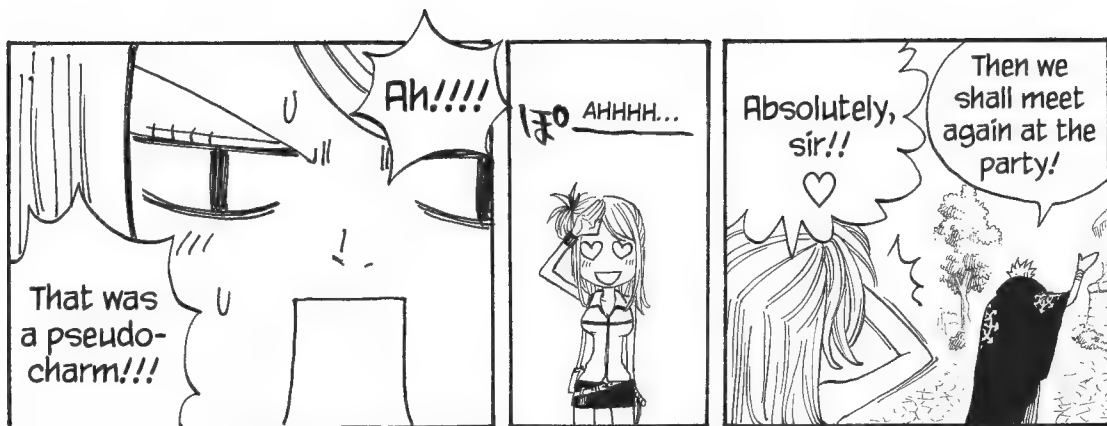




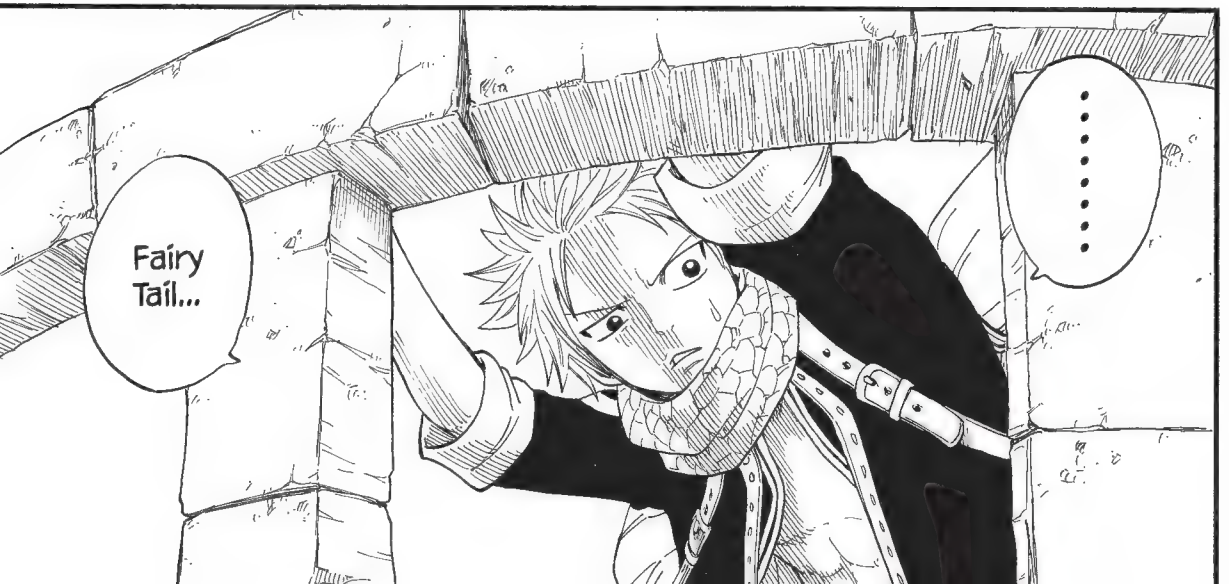


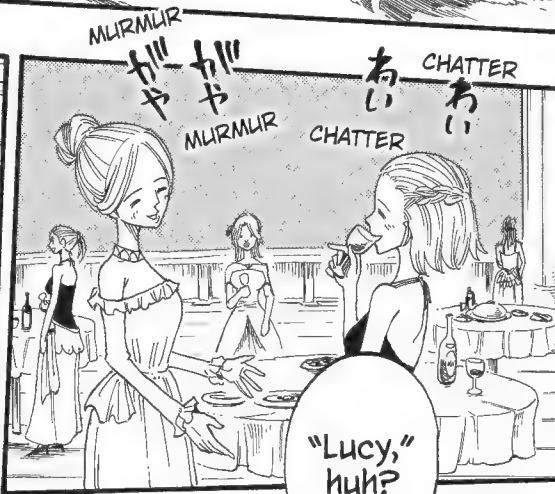
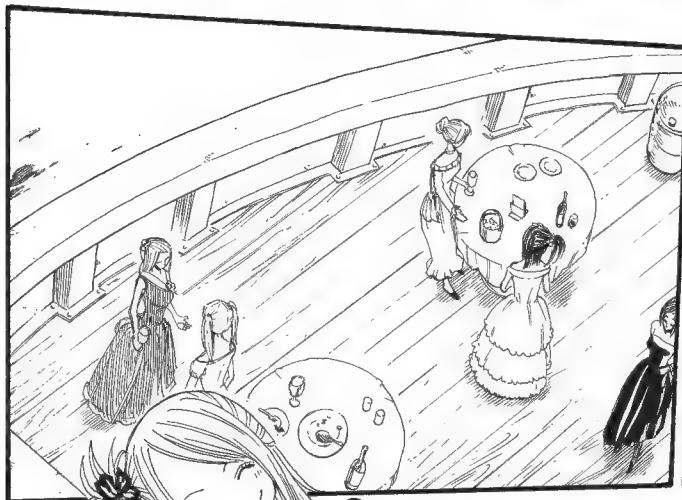


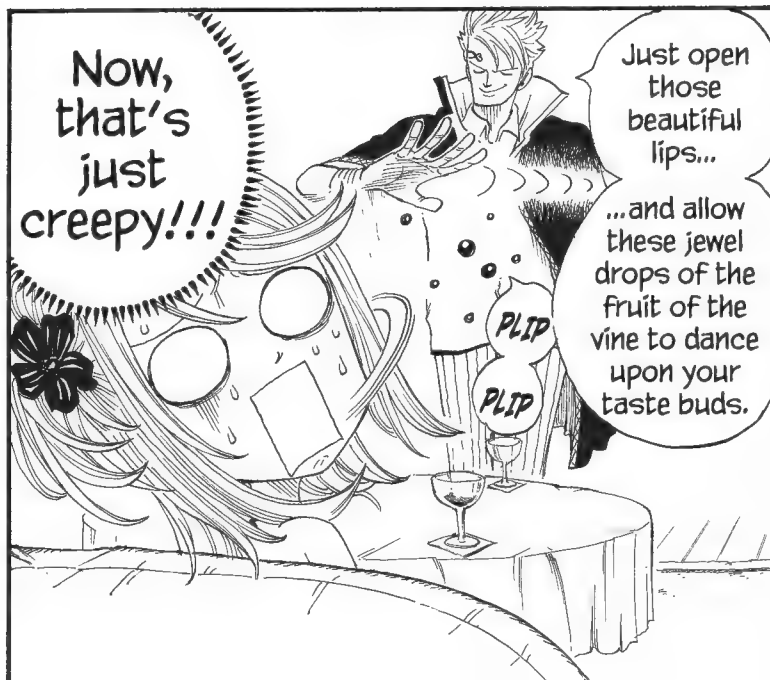
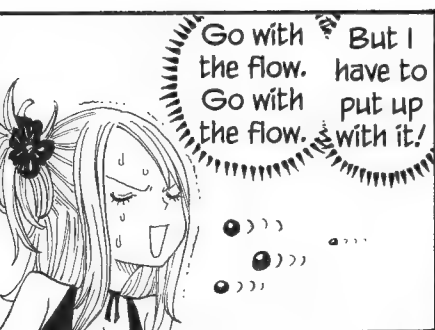
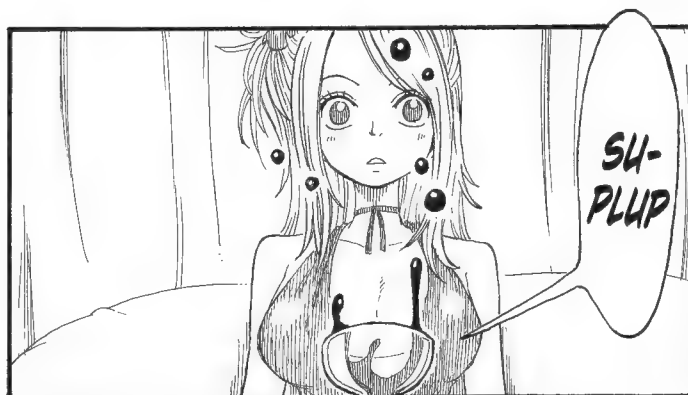


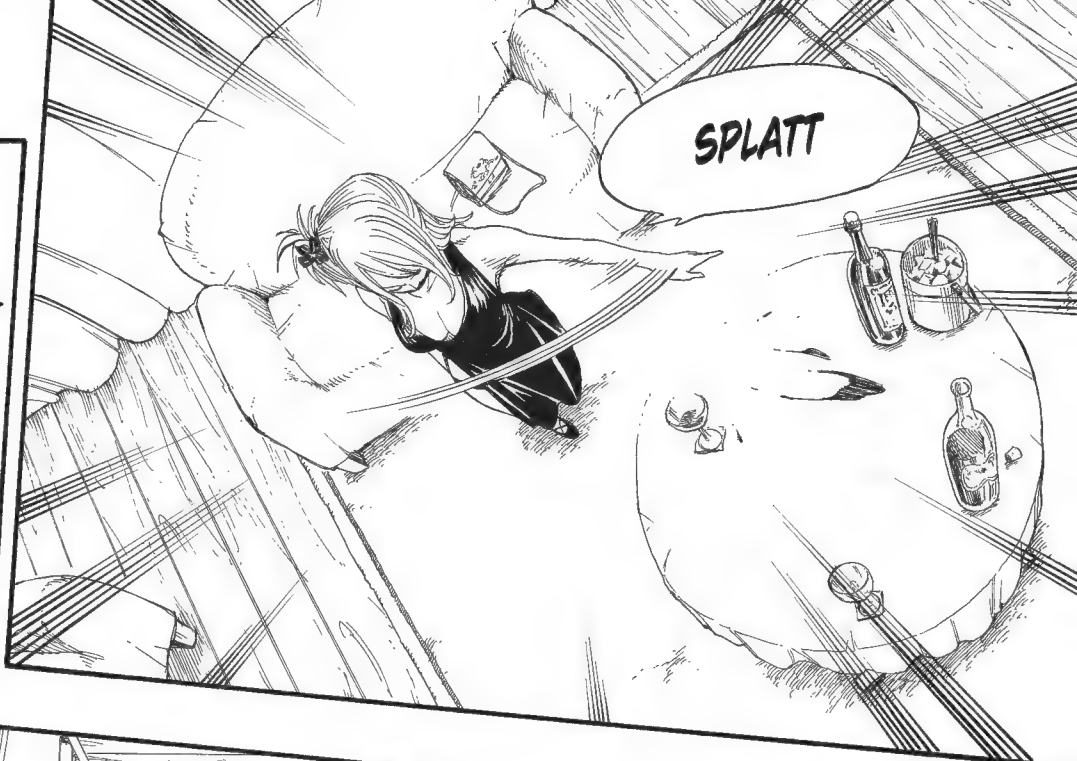












If you had just allowed yourself to get drugged, this wouldn't have hurt.

What will I do with you?

If you had just allowed yourself to get drugged, this wouldn't have hurt.

What will I do with you?

Who are you people?!!

SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE

Who are you people?!!

SSSHT

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

Whoa! That's Salamander-san for you!

We got our first big-ticket item in a long time!

What's going on here?!

GWIIP

Wha—

!!!

Who are you people?!!

SSSHT

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

Whoa! That's Salamander-san for you!

We got our first big-ticket item in a long time!

What's going on here?!

GWIIP

Wha—

!!!

GWIP

!!!

We got our first big-ticket item in a long time!

What's going on here?!

Wha-

GWIP

!!!

We got our first big-ticket item in a long time!

What's going on here?!

Wha-

GWIP

!!!

We got our first big-ticket item in a long time!

What's going on here?!

Wha-

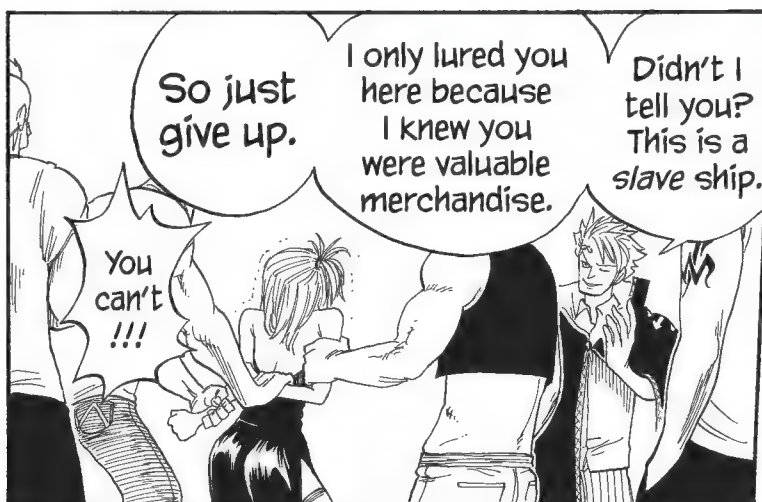


You are going to behave yourself until we arrive in the country of Bosco...

Welcome aboard my slave ship!!

...young lady!

Eh?!!



So just give up.

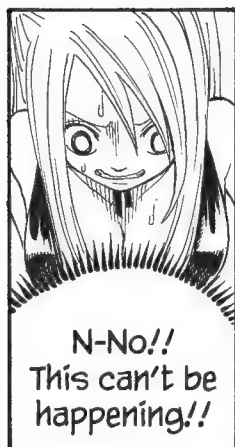
I only lured you here because I knew you were valuable merchandise.

Didn't I tell you? This is a slave ship.

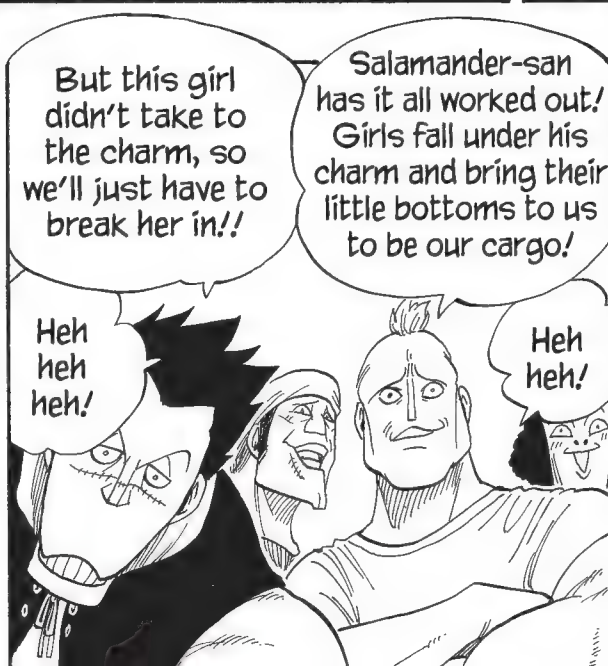
You can't !!!



Bosco?! Wait!! What about Fairy Tail?!!



N-No!! This can't be happening!!



But this girl didn't take to the charm, so we'll just have to break her in!!

Salamander-san has it all worked out! Girls fall under his charm and bring their little bottoms to us to be our cargo!

Heh heh heh!

Heh heh!





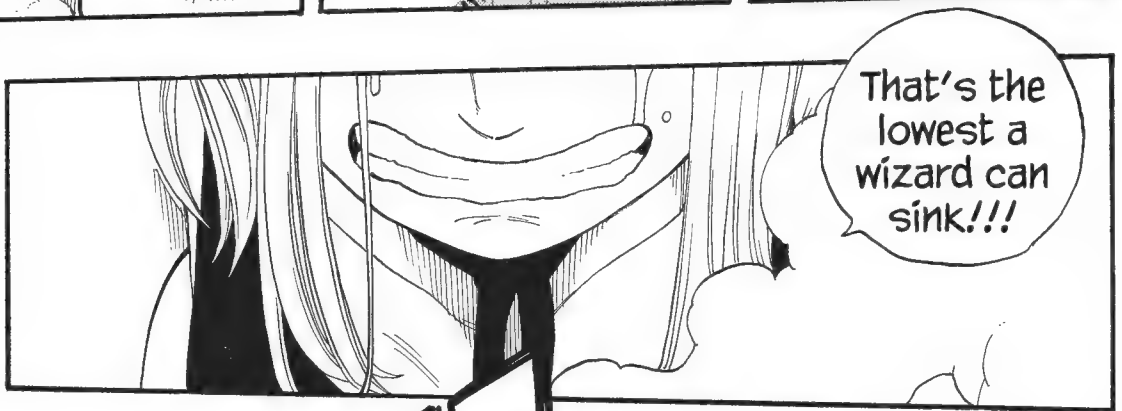
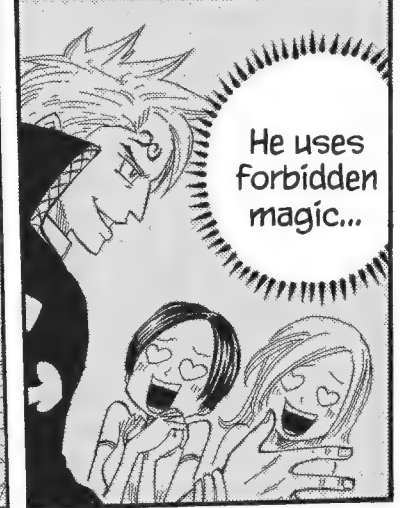
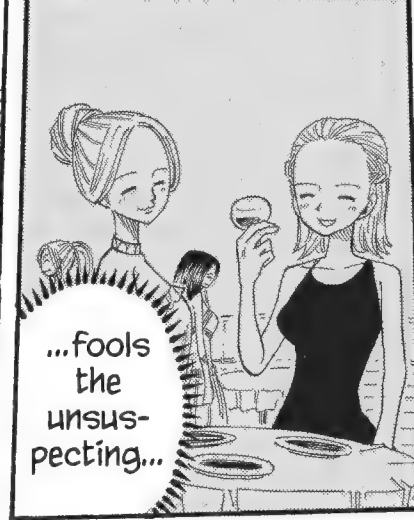


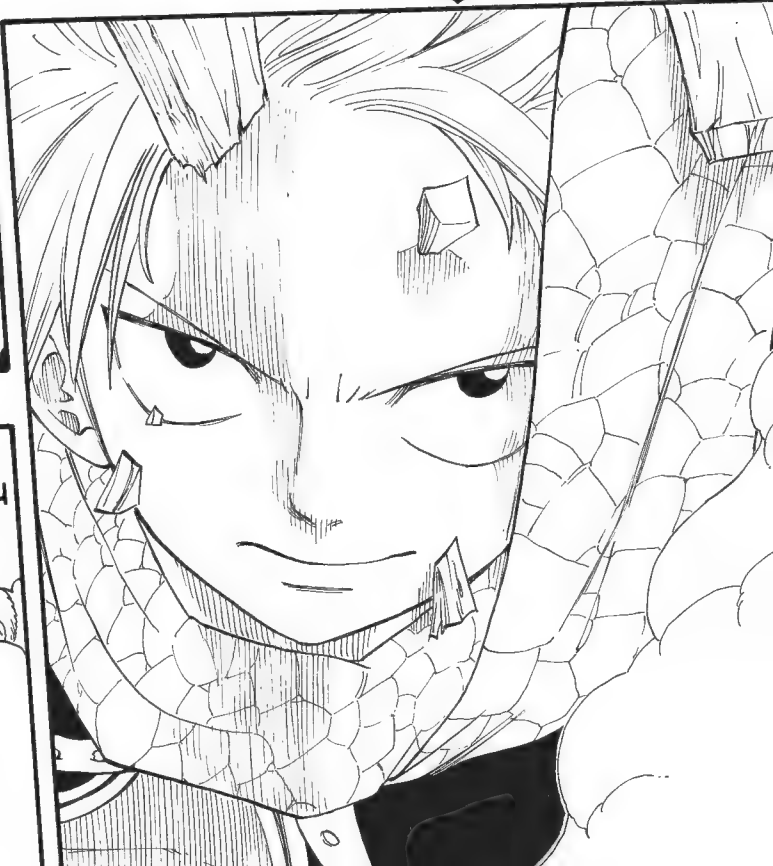
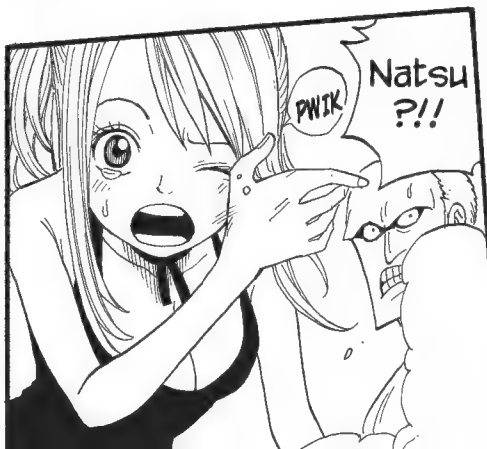
Are these
the things a
Fairy Tail wizard
does?



It might
sting a bit,
but grit
your teeth
and bear
it.

The first
thing we do
with slaves is
brand them!







Ehh?!
That's
the least
cool thing
I've ever
seen!!!

BLEEEAAAH

Urk!

No good!
I can't take it!



SHUSH SHUSH



おおおおお
OHHHHH...

And he's
gone all
seasick!



Wh-
What's
going on
here?!!

How did a
kid come
falling
out of the
sky?!!



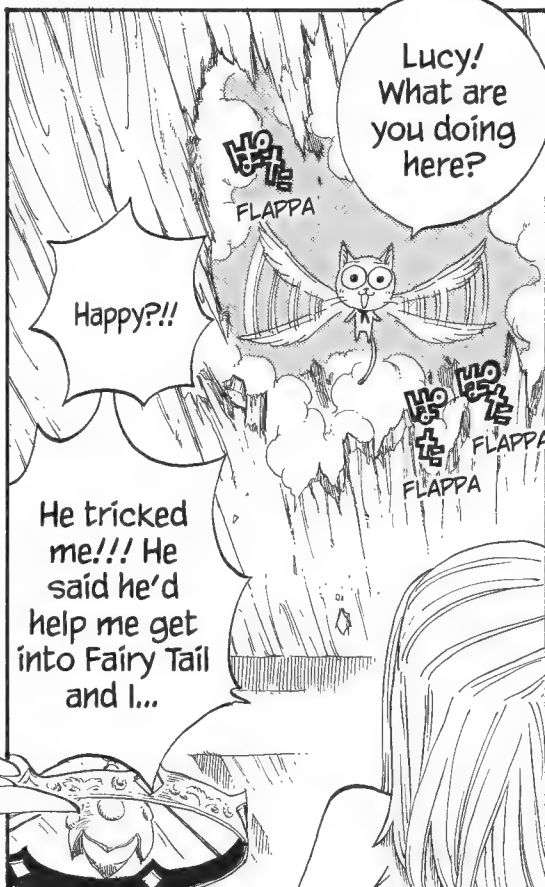
I don't
remember
you having
wings!



Let's
save the
details
for later!



twik



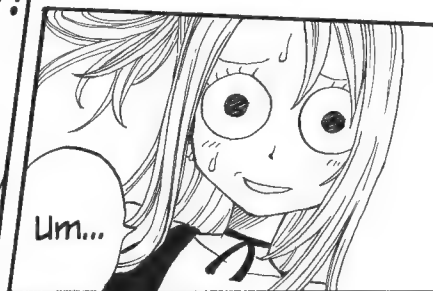
Lucy!
What are
you doing
here?

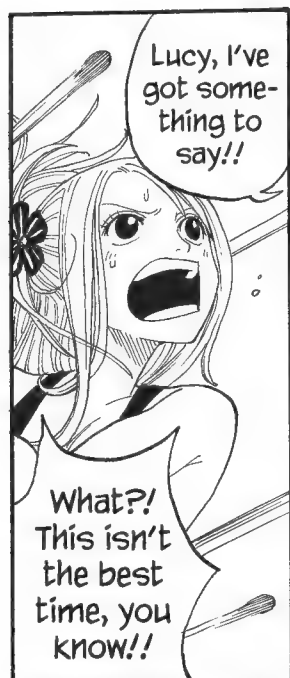
Happy?!!

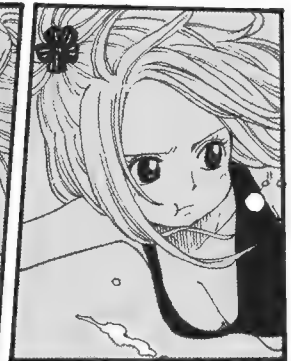
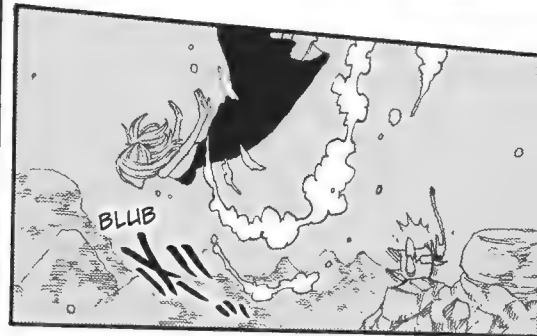
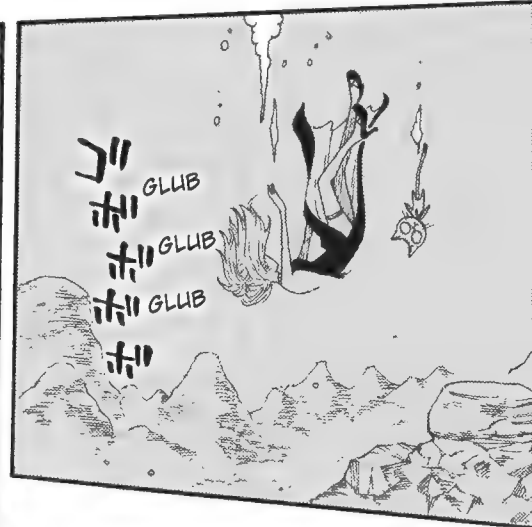
He tricked
me!!! He
said he'd
help me get
into Fairy Tail
and I...

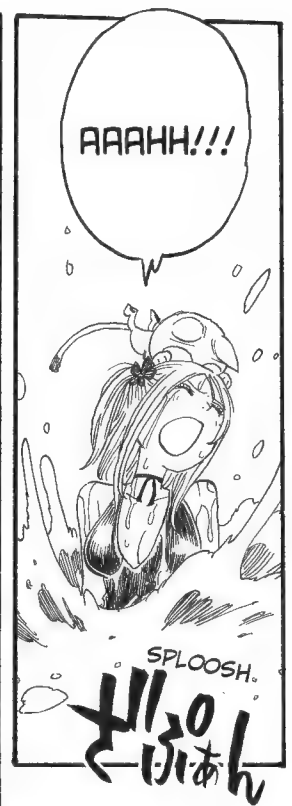
FLAPPA

FLAPPA
FLAPPA









Aquarius!!!

KEEEE

I
command
the Gate of
the Water
Bearer to
open!!!

SPLOOSH

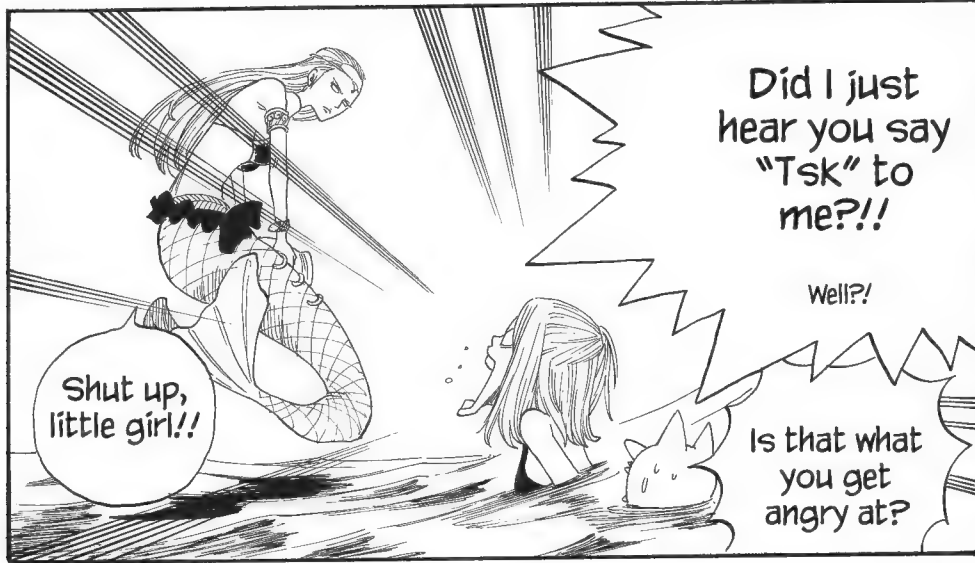
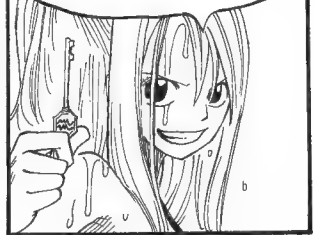
That's
amaz-
ing!!!



Now,
Aquarius!
Use your
power...

...and force
that ship to
shore!!

I'm a celestial
wizard! I use the
keys to the Gates
to the other world,
and call the celestial
spirits forth!!



Shut up,
little girl!!

Did I just
hear you say
"Tsk" to
me?!!

Well?!

Is that what
you get
angry at?

Tsk!



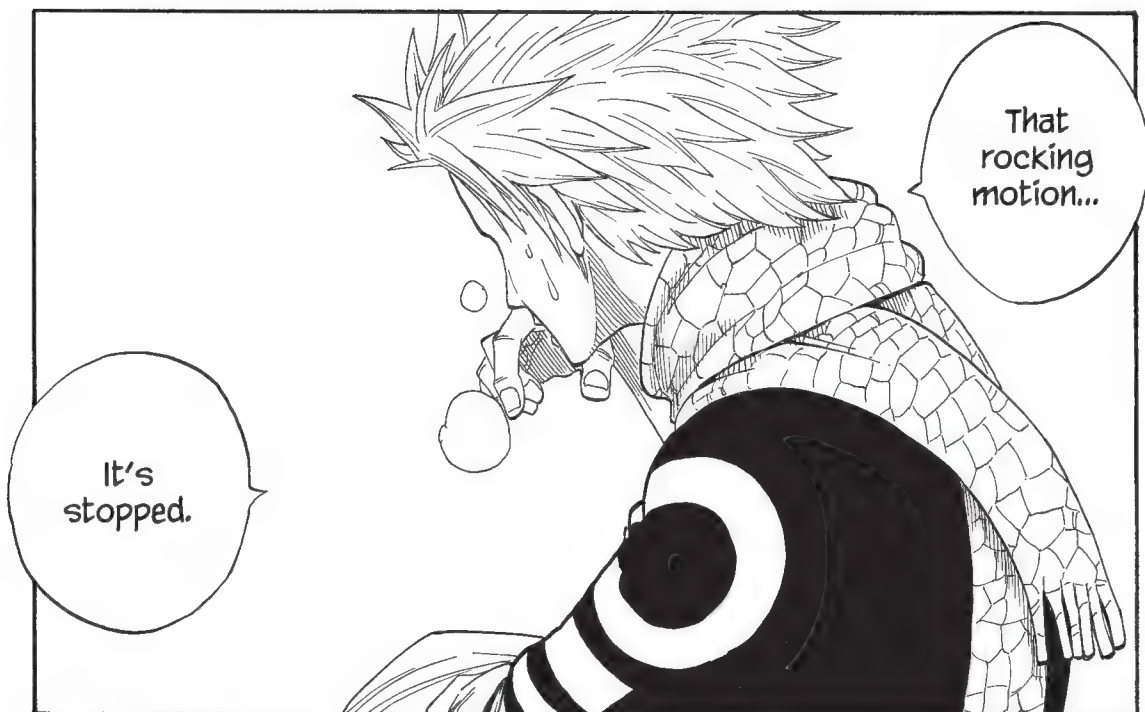
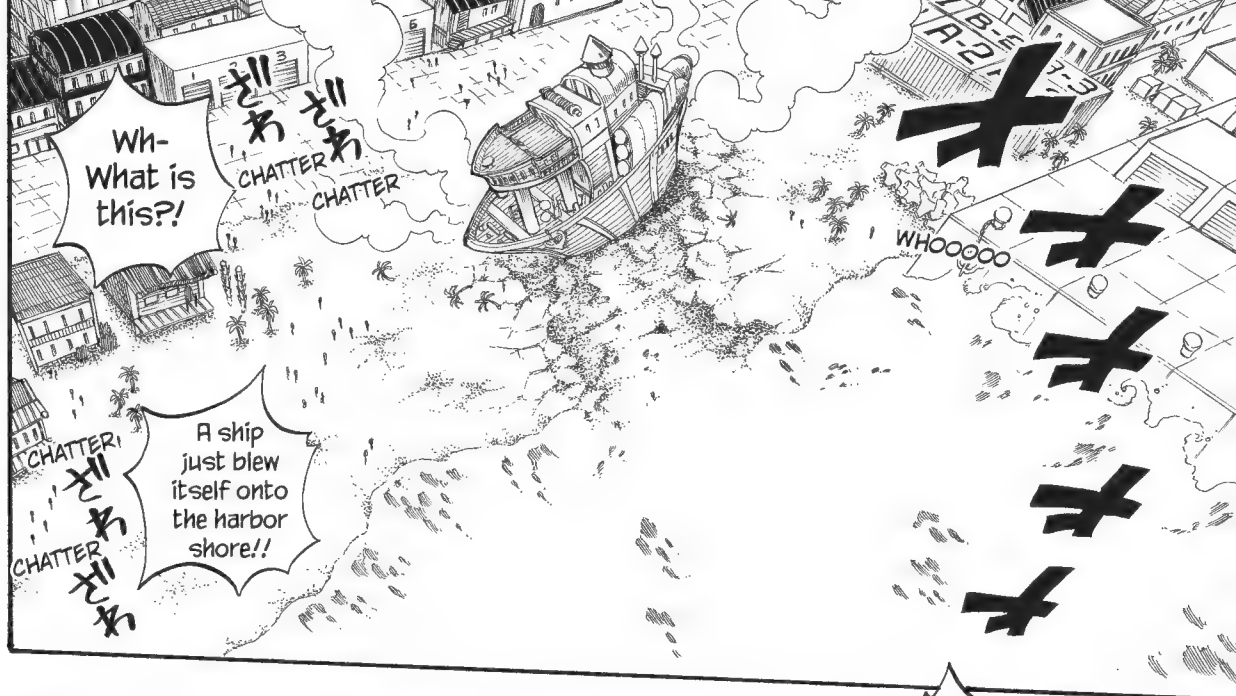
The next
time you
drop my key,
I'll kill you!!

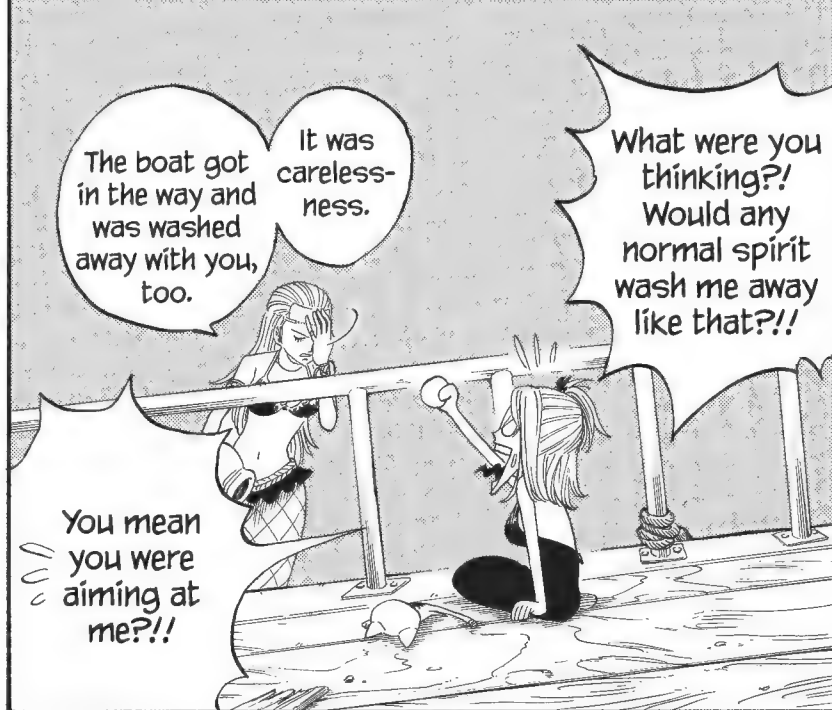
I-I'm
sorry!!



I have
one
thing to
say.











Whaa?!/

We didn't
get a chance
to mention it,
but Natsu is
a wizard,
too.



He's
fine.

Oh,
no! I'd
better...



Yes,
sir!!

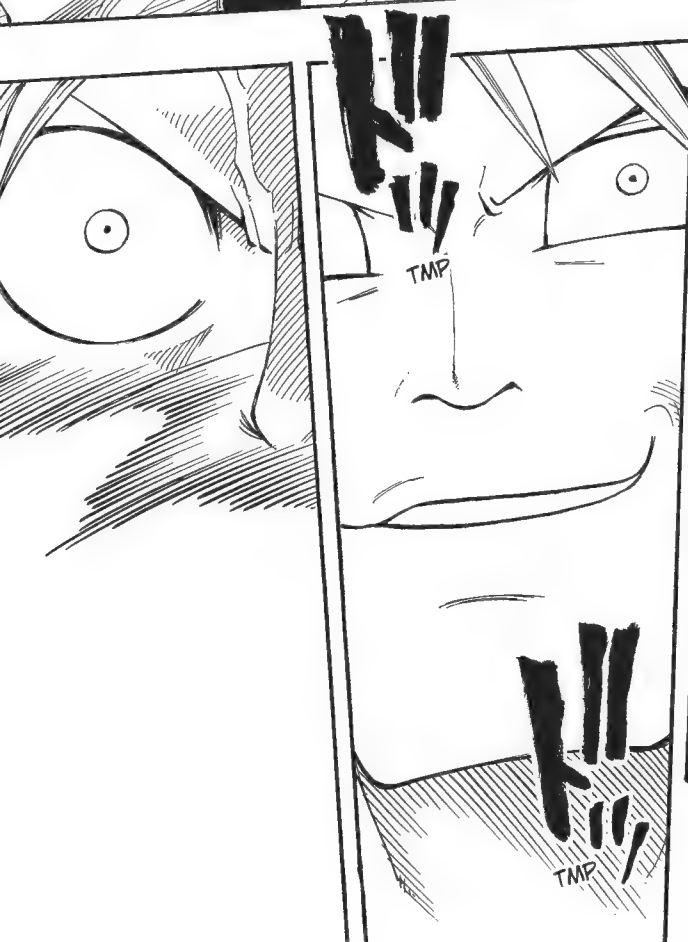
Hey,
throw
him over-
board.



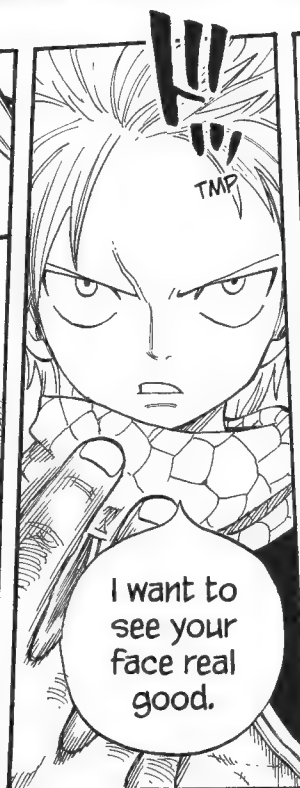
You're a
Fairy Tail
wizard?



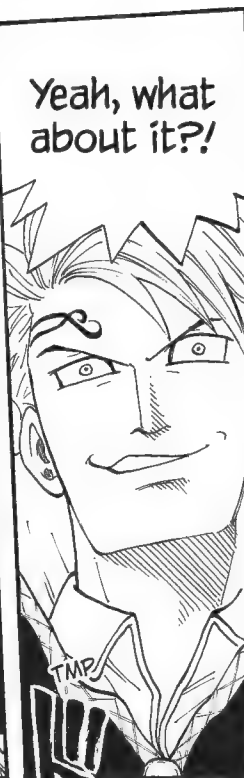
WHOOSH



Yeah, what
about it?!



I want to
see your
face real
good.





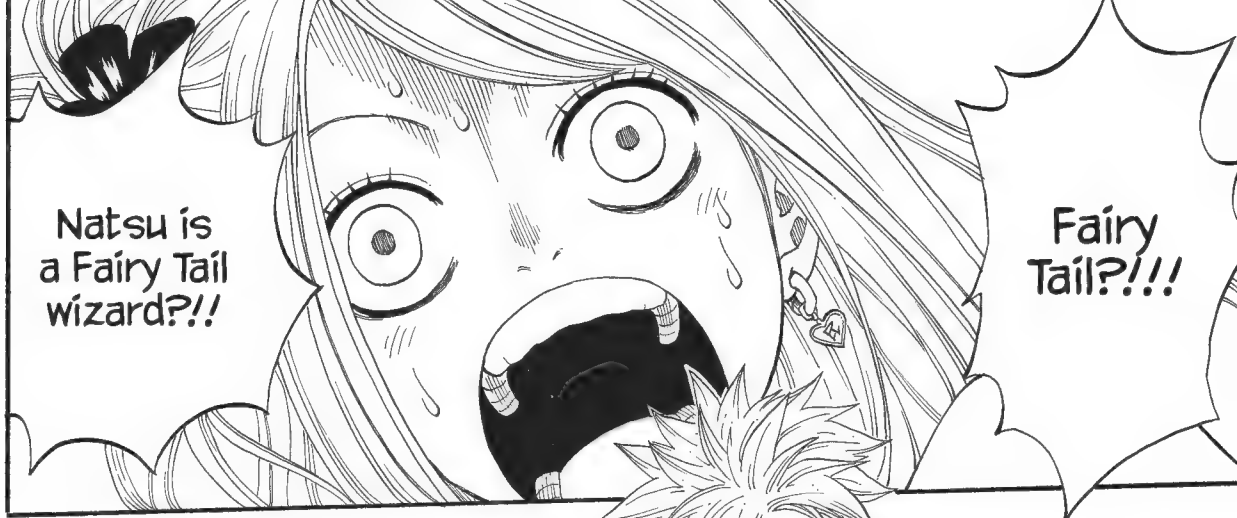
Wha-?!!!

WHAM!

Eh?

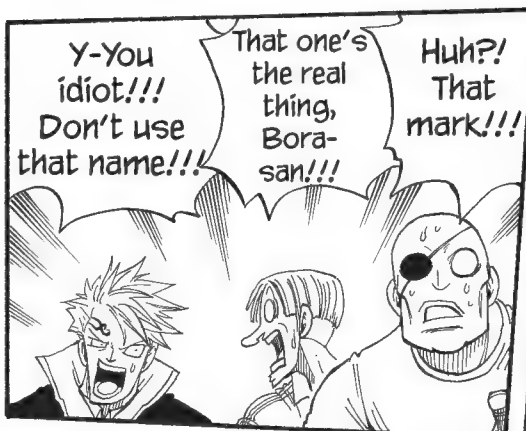
'Cause
I'm Natsu of
Fairy Tail!!!

And I ain't
never seen
you before in
my life!!!!



Natsu is
a Fairy Tail
wizard?!!

Fairy
Tail?!!!



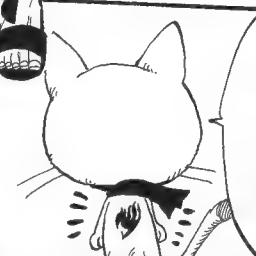
Y-You
idiot!!!
Don't use
that name!!!

That one's
the real
thing,
Bora-
san!!!

Huh?!
That
mark!!!



I heard about
that! He was
expelled for
repeatedly using
magic to aid in
thievery.

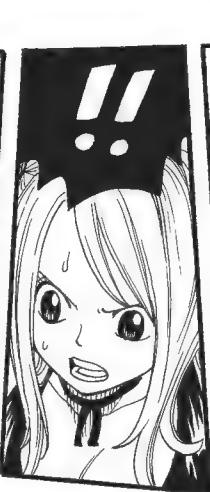


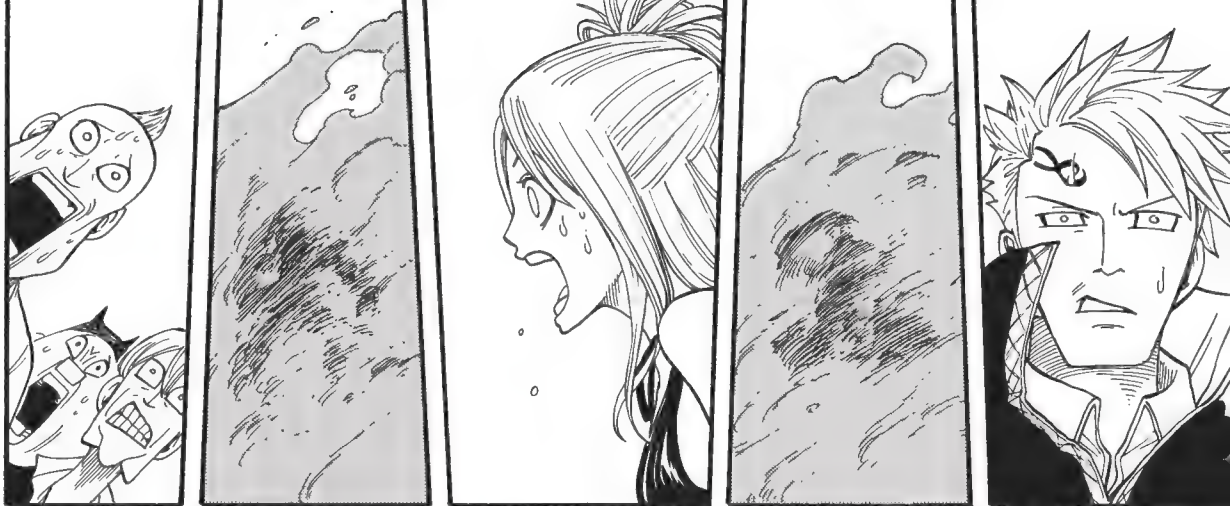
Bora...A few
years back a man
named Bora the
Prominence was
expelled from the
Titan Nose wizard
guild.

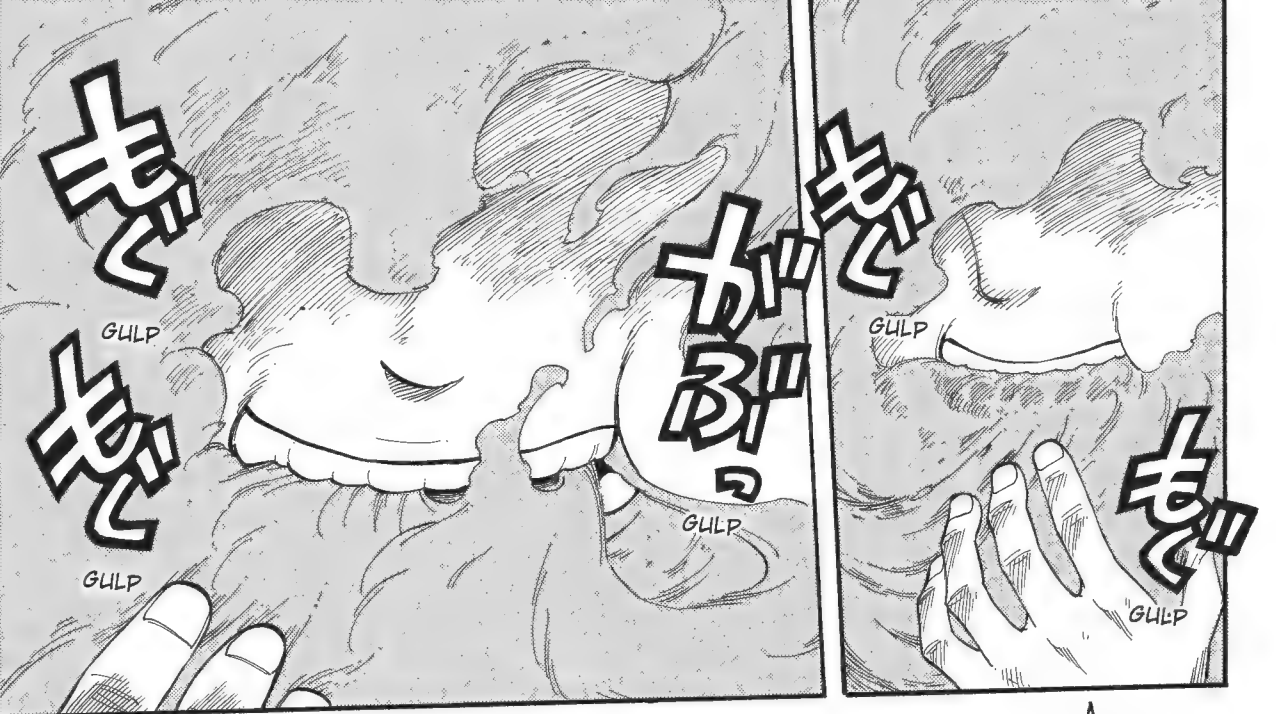


But I'm not
going to let
you slander
the name of
Fairy Tail!!!

You could be
good or evil!
It makes no
difference to
me!!








Ahhh...

GWOOOOO


But thanks
for the meal,
anyway.





What the hell is this guy?!!!

Wh...
Wh-Wha...




I've never seen magic like that!!!




Fire doesn't work on Natsu.



Fire?!!



You mean he ate the fire?!!



...the power wells up inside!!!

When I eat...



Here I
gooooooooo!!!!



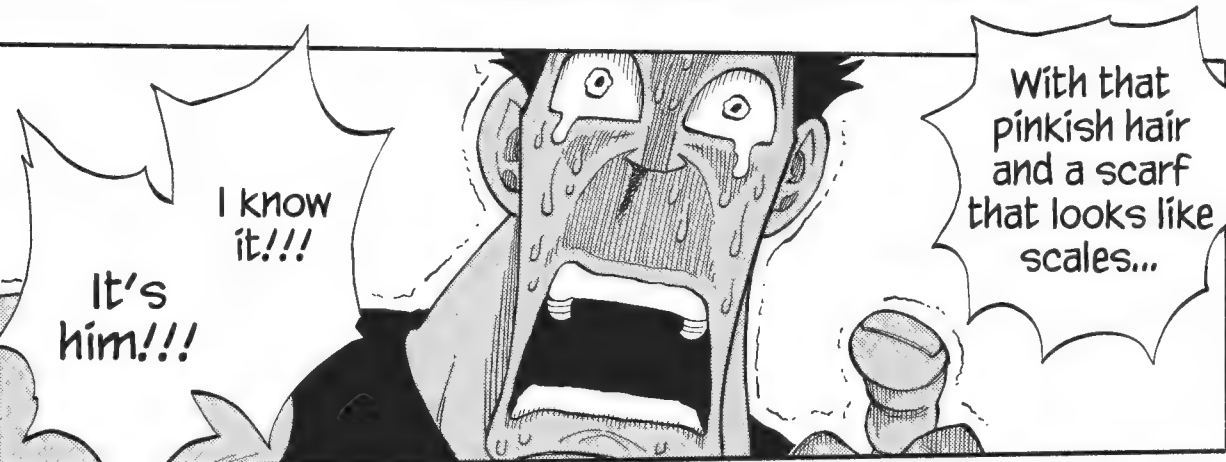
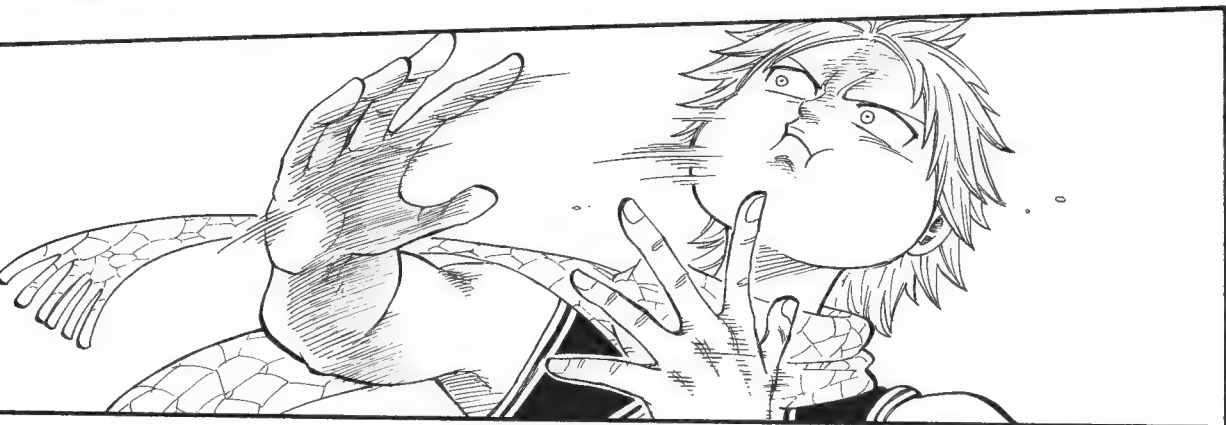
He...

...couldn't
be...



Huhh?!!

Bora-san,
I've seen
this guy
before!!!



I know
it!!!

It's
him!!!

With that
pinkish hair
and a scarf
that looks like
scales...



He's
the real...





Remember
this well!!



This is the
might of a
Fairy Tail...



Salamander...

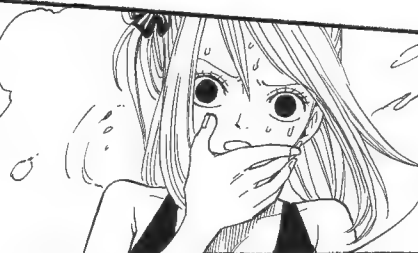


GWAMM

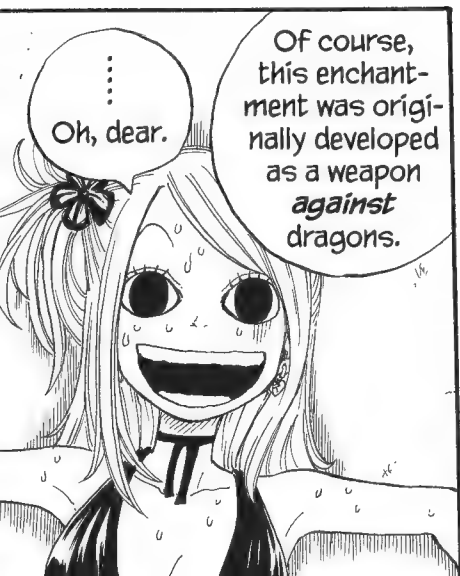
...wizard!!!!



Can this
even be
called
magic?!!



He eats fire...
He punches
with fire...



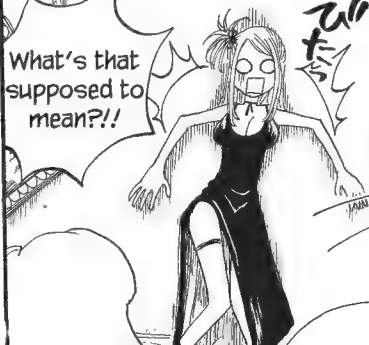
Oh, dear.

Of course,
this enchant-
ment was origi-
nally developed
as a weapon
against
dragons.

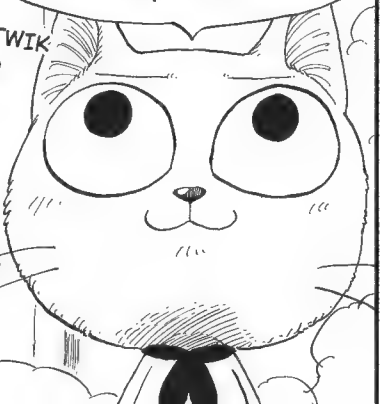
This is an
enchantment that
transforms the
body and gives it
the aspects of a
dragon's body.

A dragon's lungs
exhale fire. A dragon's
scales dissolve fire.
A dragon's claws are
enveloped in fire.

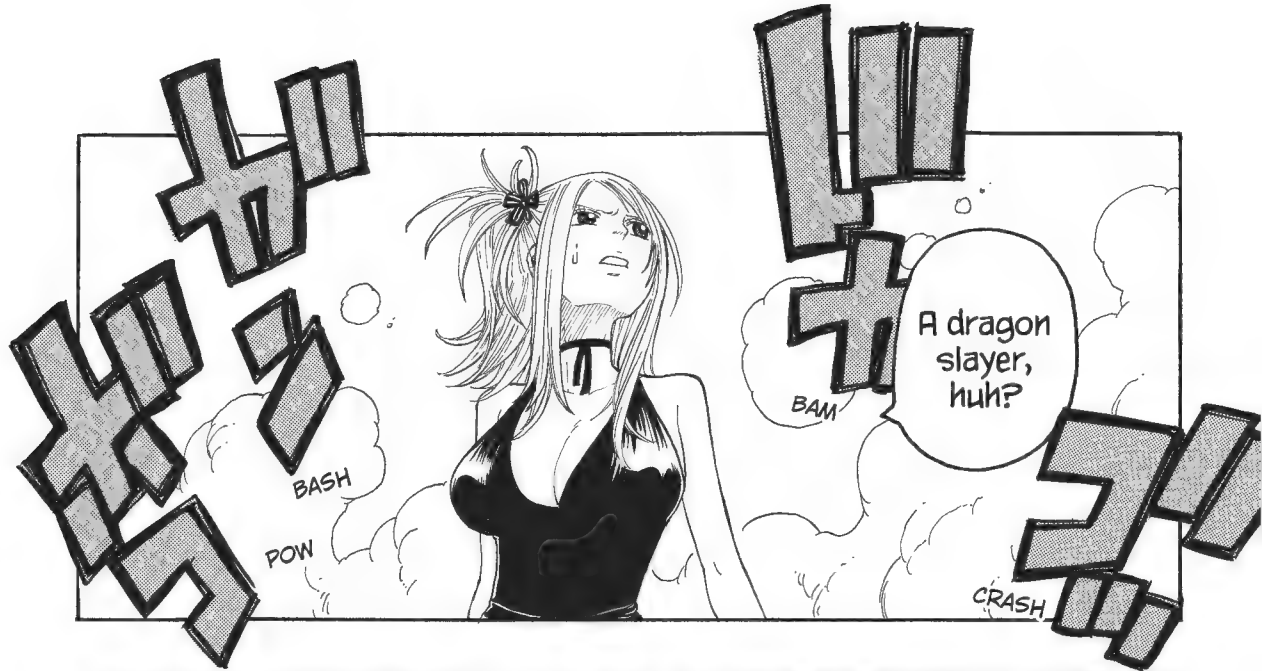
What's that
supposed to
mean?!!



TWIK









He's
getting
too
carried
away!!!!

ZWOOOMM

!!
KRAKKL

C'MON

C'MON

C'MON

C'MON

!!
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

KRAKK



Owie...



Is "Aye"
all you
have to
say?!!

Aye.



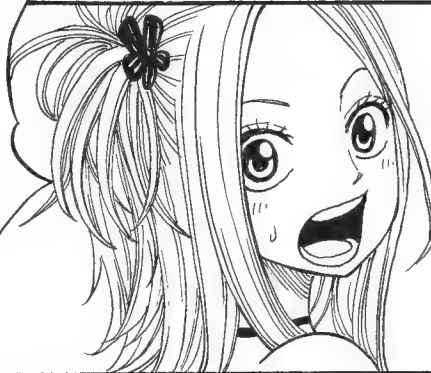
FWOOOO

Th-The whole
harbor's a
wreck!!!

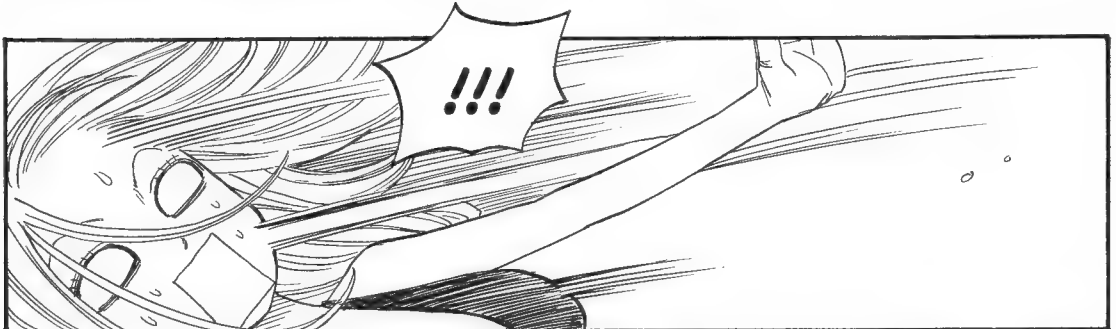


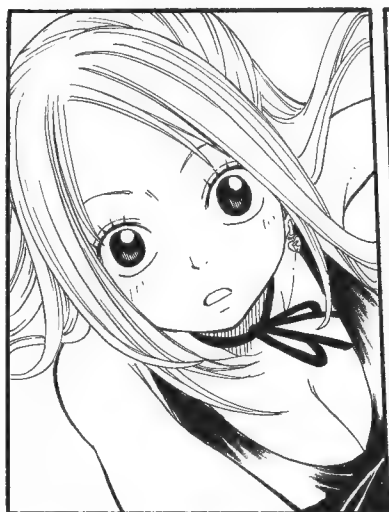
A-All
right!!
What's
all this,
then?!!

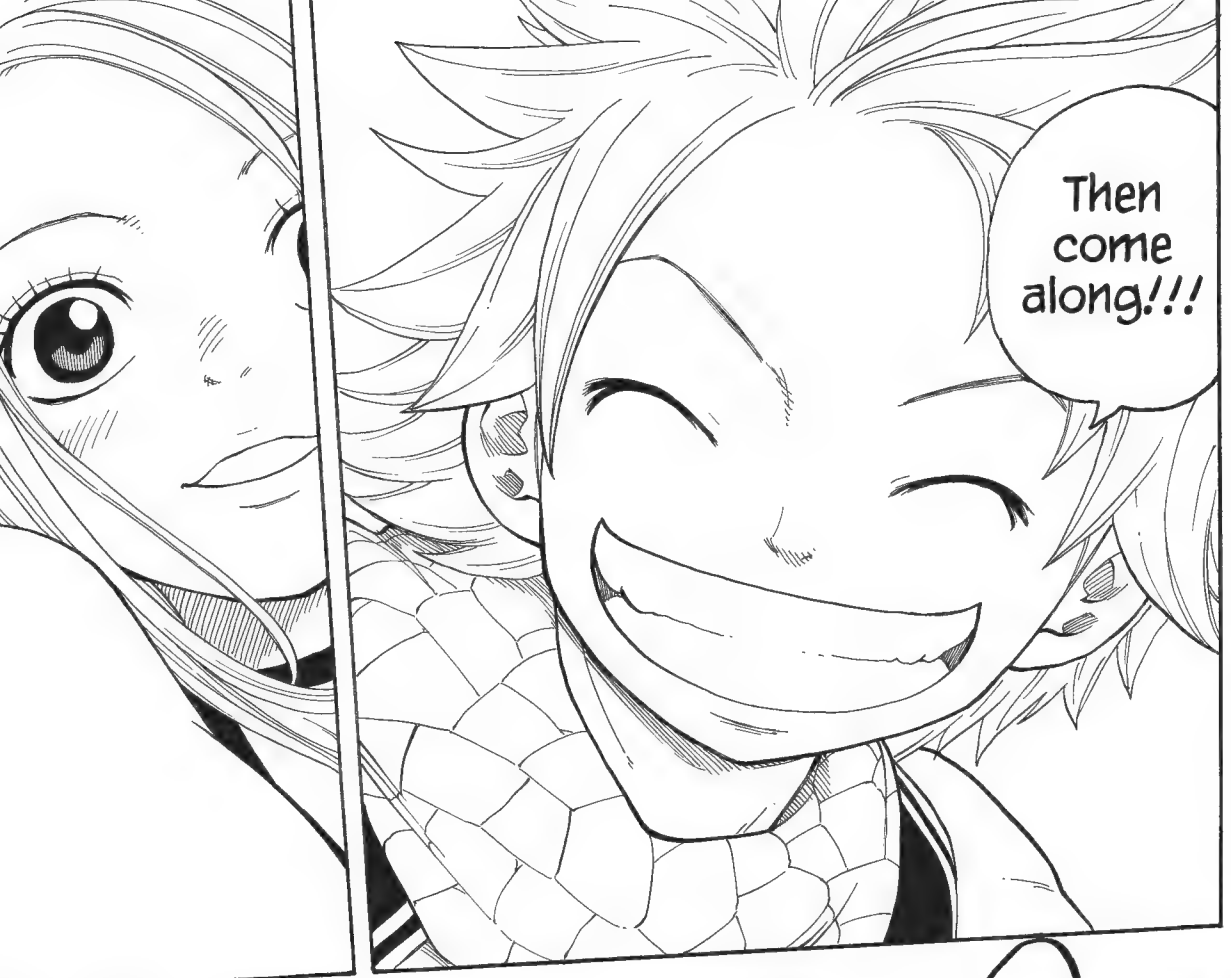
It's the
army!!!

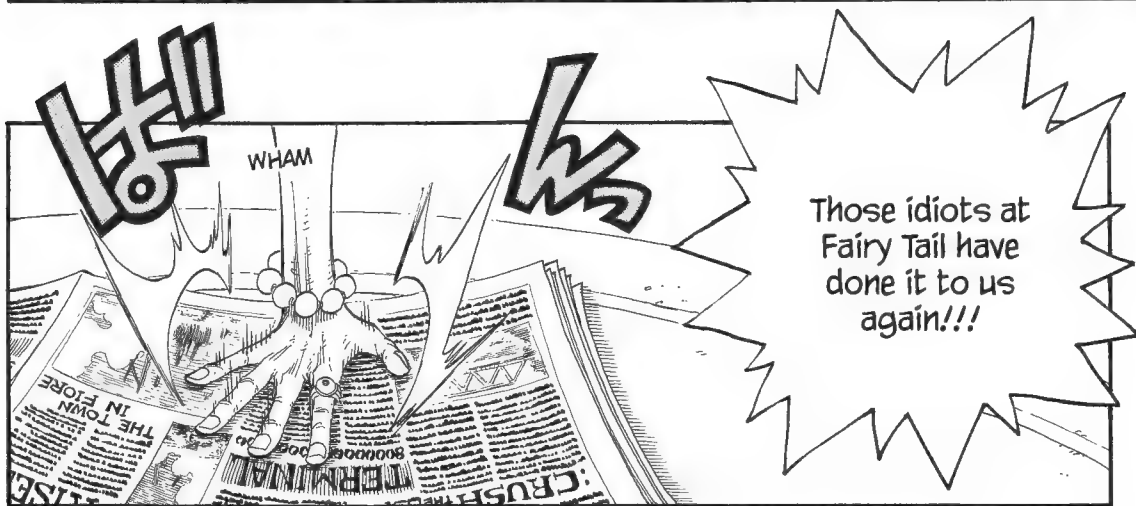


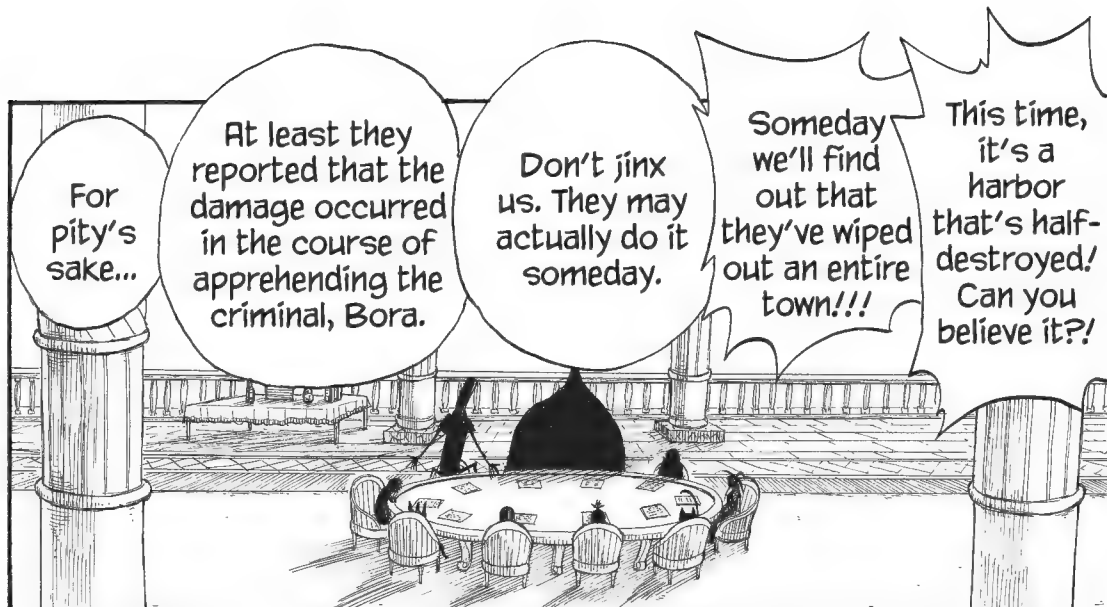
!!!











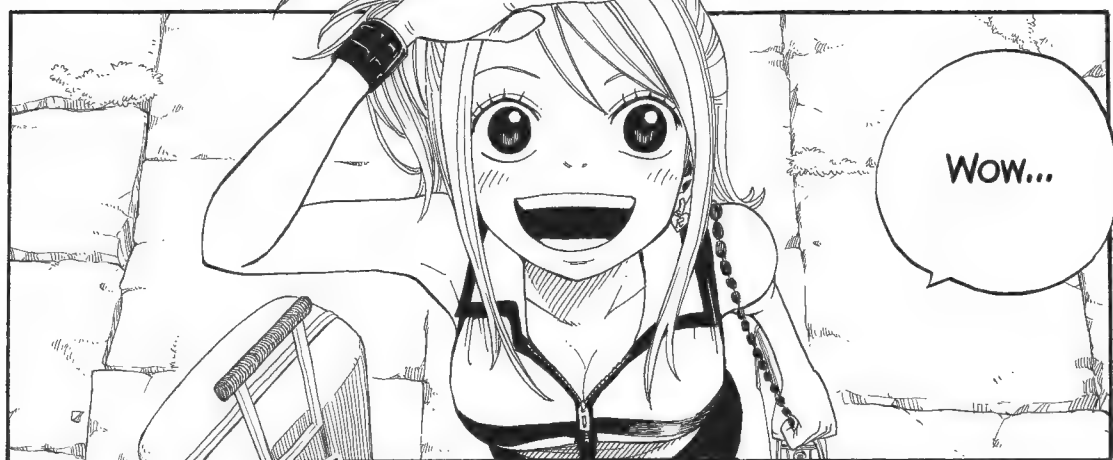


...this world
would be
completely
boring.

Without
those
particular
idiots...



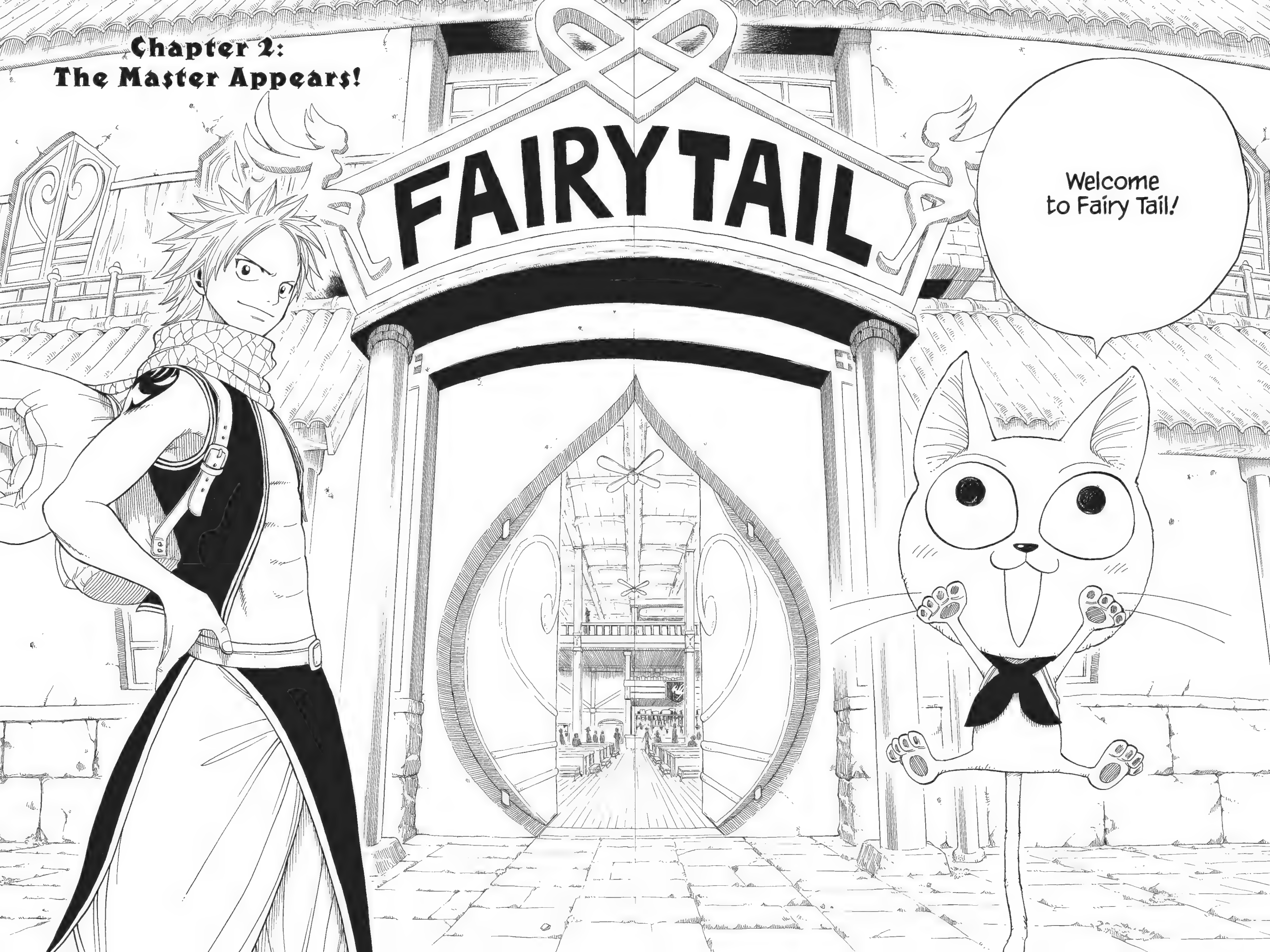


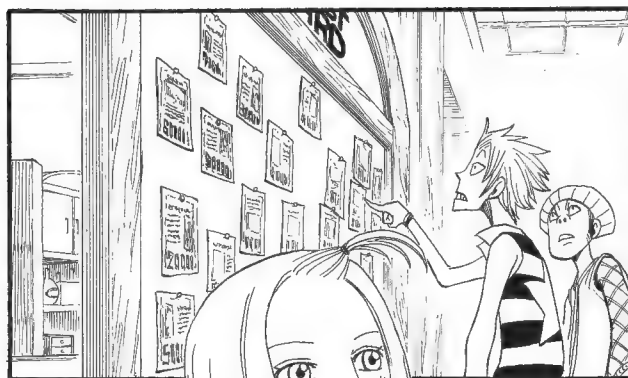


Chapter 2:
The Master Appears!

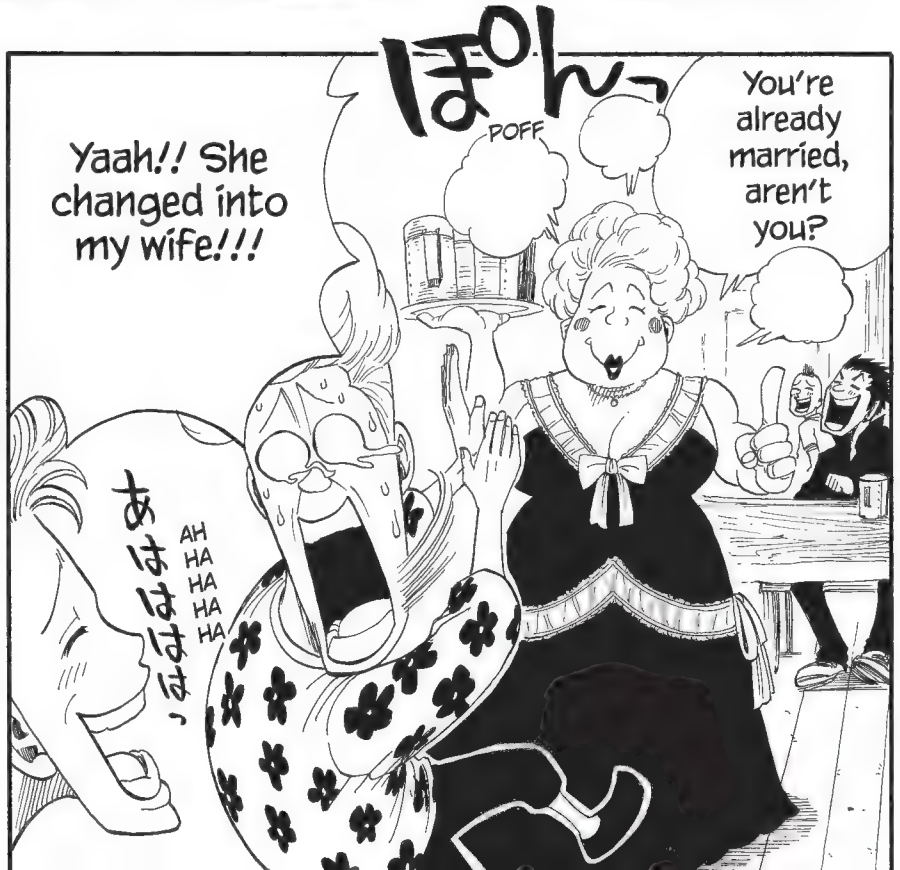
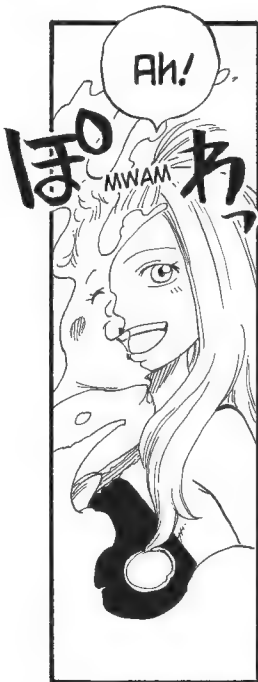
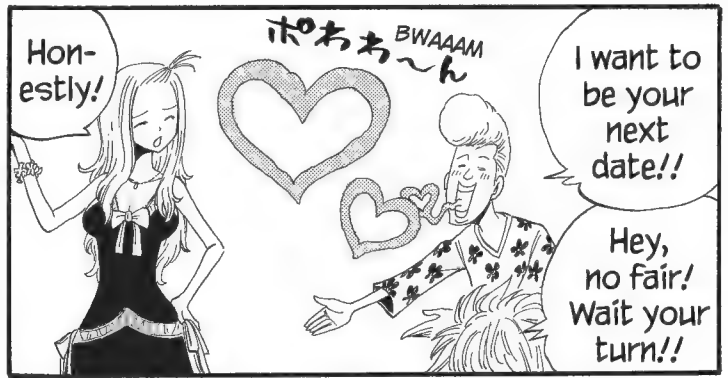
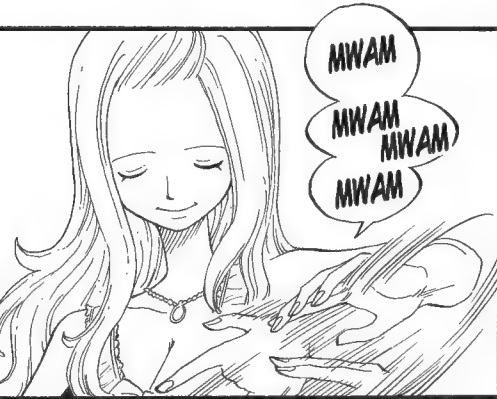
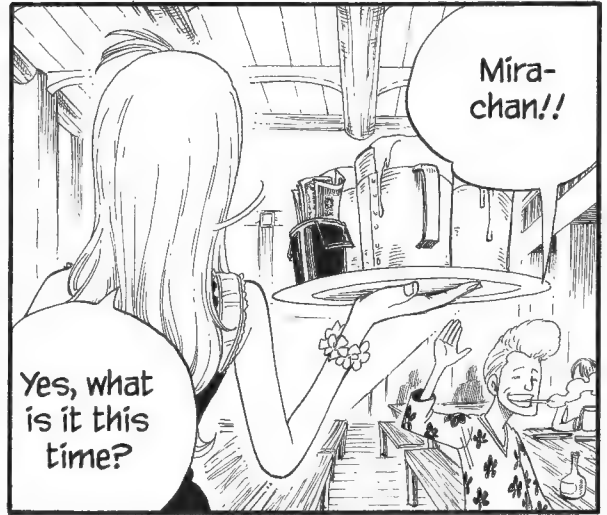
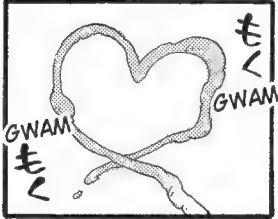
FAIRYTAIL

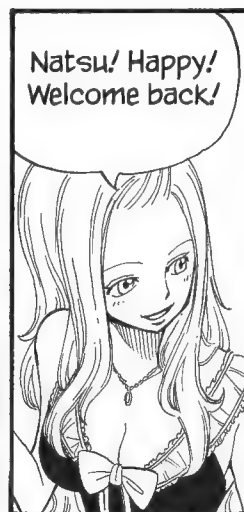
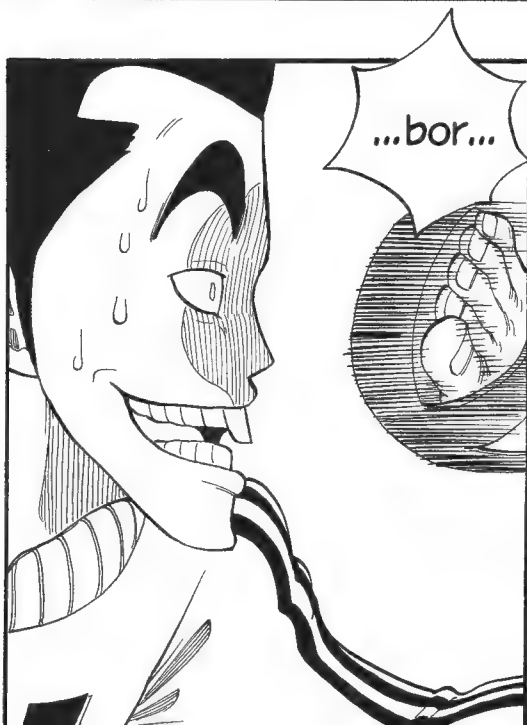
Welcome
to Fairy Tail!





Fairy Tail employee:
Mirajane





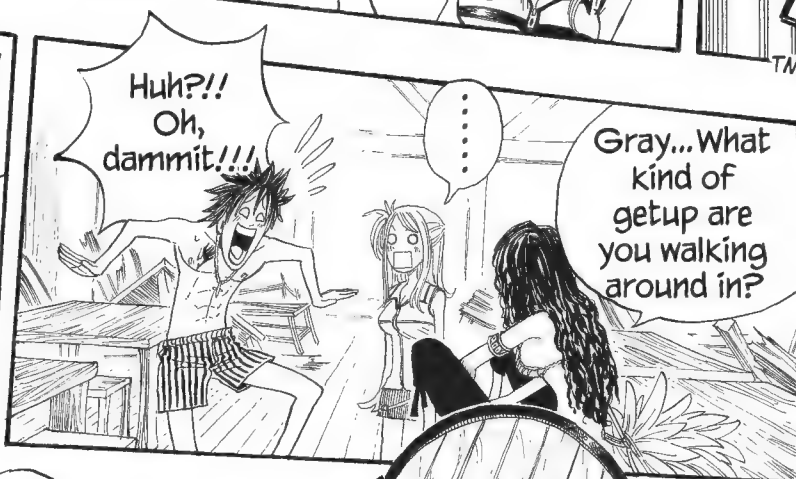


You lousy...
This time
we're going to
finish it!!!
You hear?!!

You say that
Natsu is
back?!!



That's why they say
the men here have
no class!



Huh?!!
Oh,
dammit!!!

Gray... What
kind of
getup are
you walking
around in?

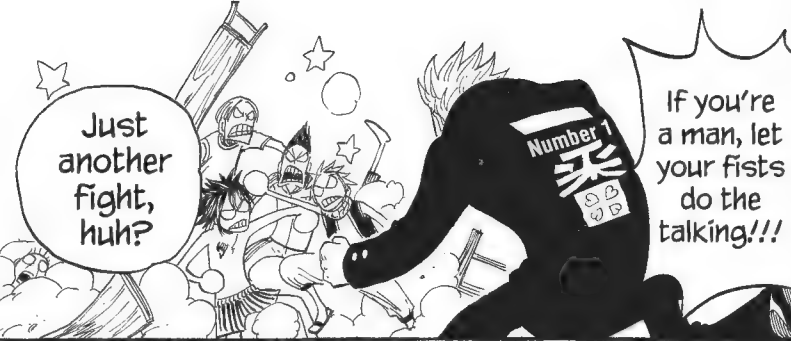


This is
disgusting.

It
makes
me
sick!!

Hey,
Natsu!!!
I'm taking
you on!!!

Put on
some
clothes,
then we'll
fight!



Just another fight, huh?

If you're a man, let your fists do the talking!!!



And he doesn't even last five seconds?!!

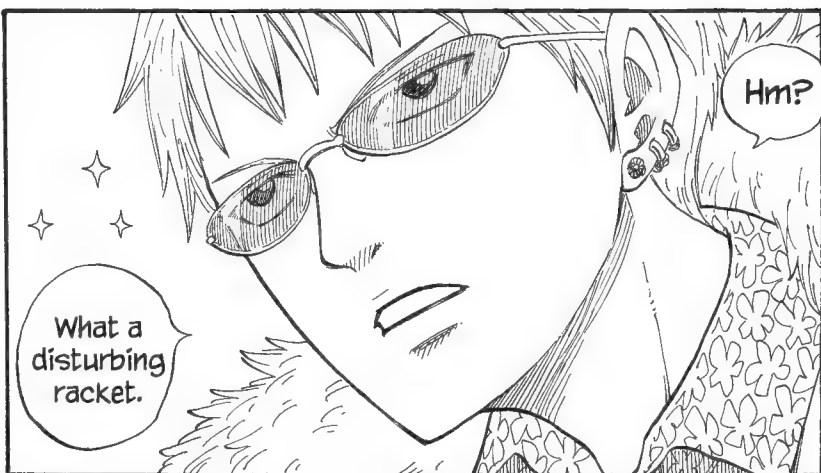
You're just in the way!!!



They aren't babies. They shouldn't be screaming and making noise continuously.



It's Loke!! One of the top-ranking men for "The Wizard I'd Like to Be My Boyfriend"!!
(As ranked by Weekly Sorcerer Magazine)



Hm?

What a disturbing racket.



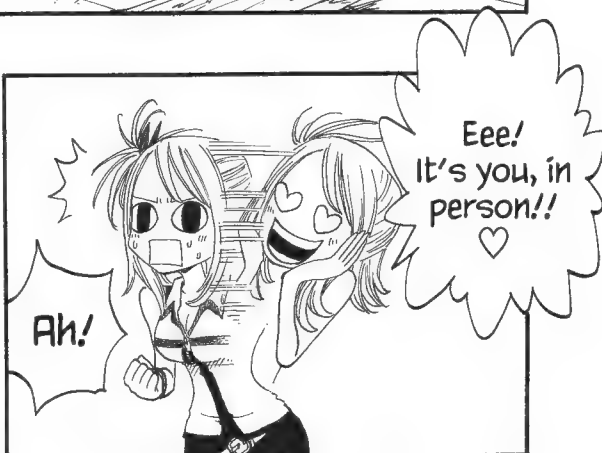
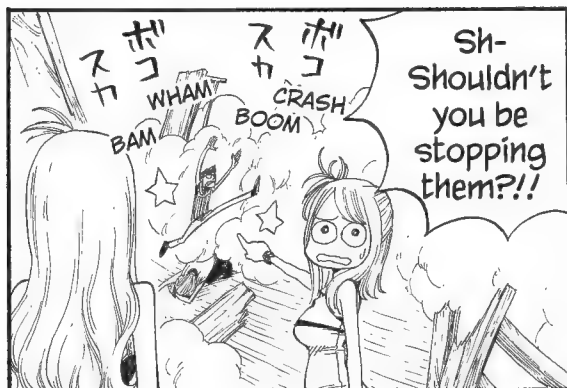
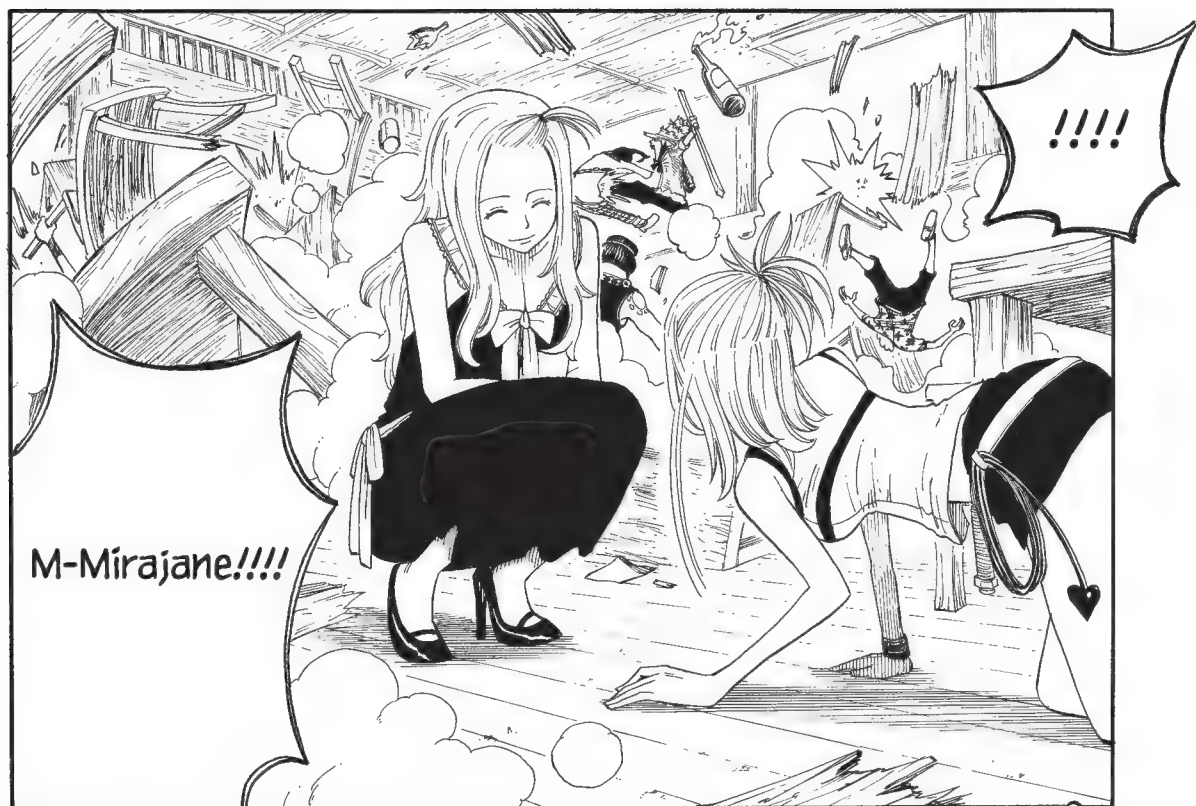
There goes another illusion!!!

Teach them a lesson! ♡

Then you're entering the fray?! ♡

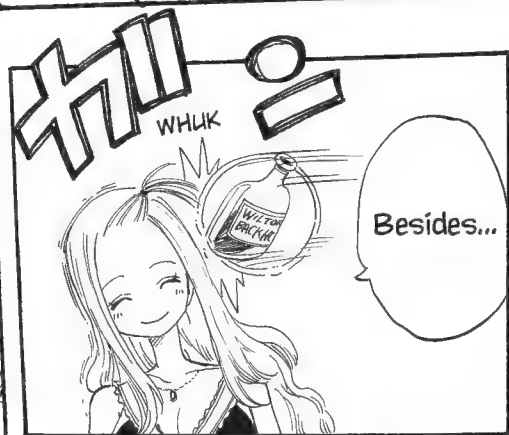
EEK!
EEK!

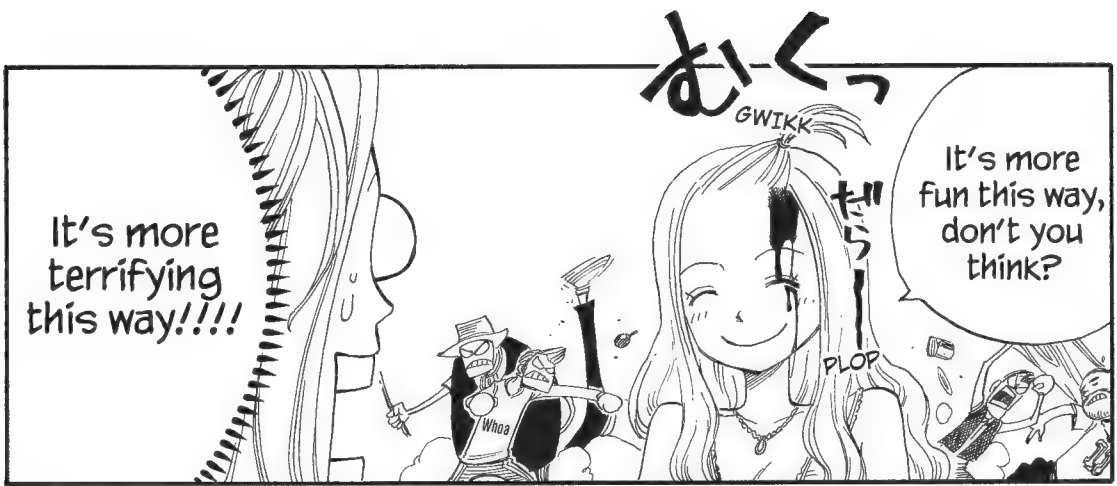
EEK!
EEK!

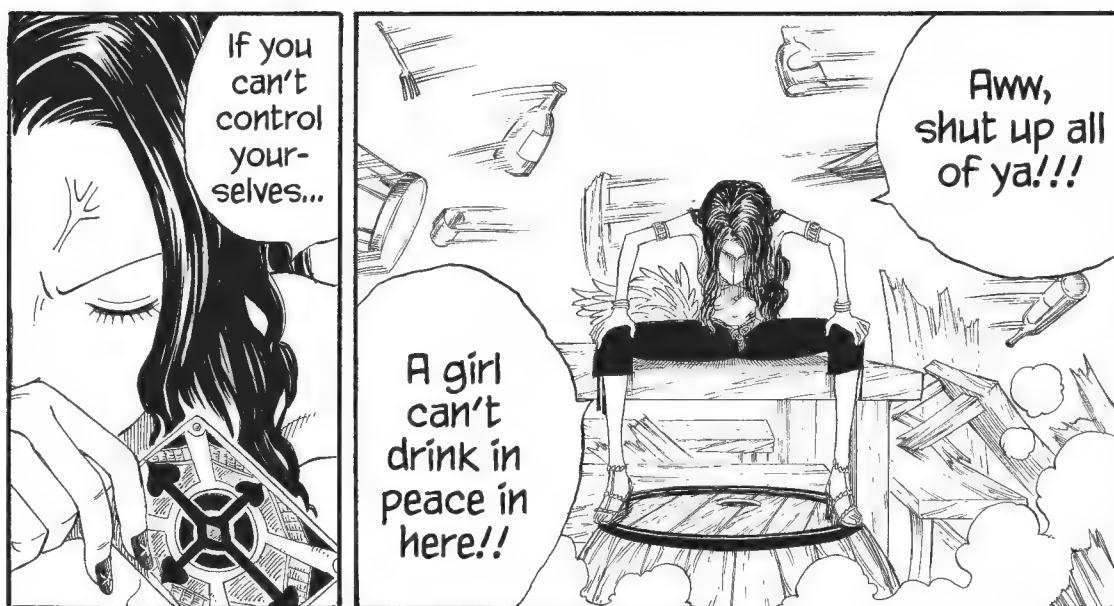




Kyaaaaa!!!
Mirajane-
san!!



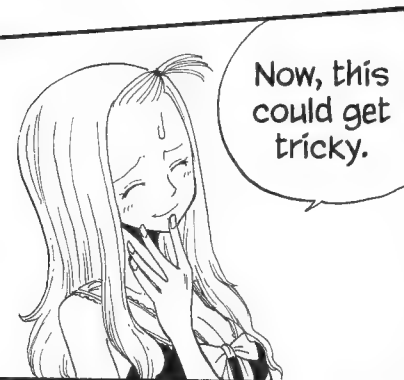






Magic
?!!!

ぐ
ぐ
ぐ
GULP

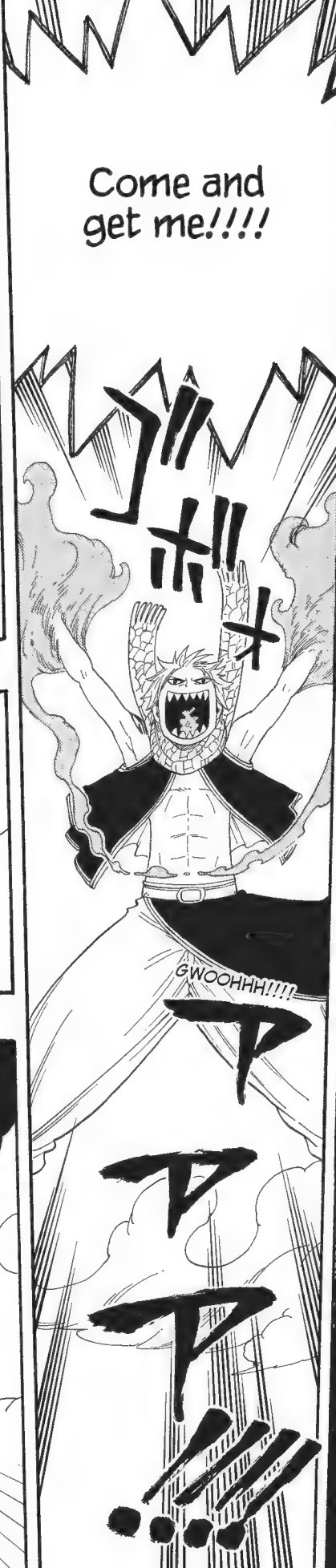


Now, this
could get
tricky.



This ends
here!

SKREECH



Come and
get me!!!!

GWOOHH!!!!

ア
ア
ア
!!!



Your crass
ways must
be dealt
with...

KEEEE



Hyaaaaa!!!!

GWOOOO



WHOOOO

I'm mad
now!!!!



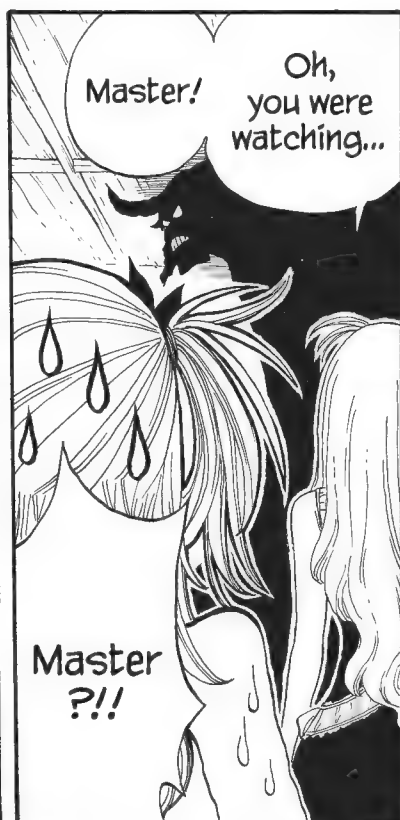
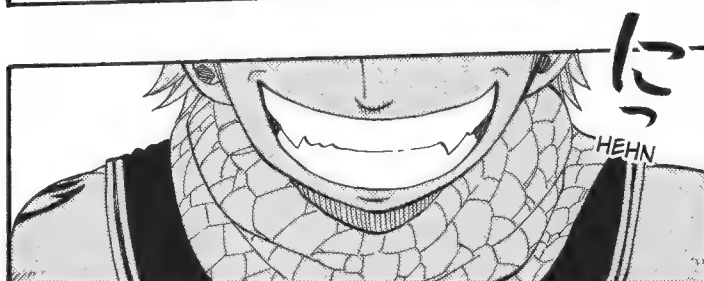
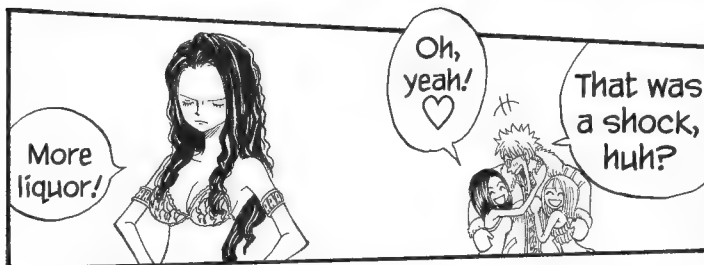
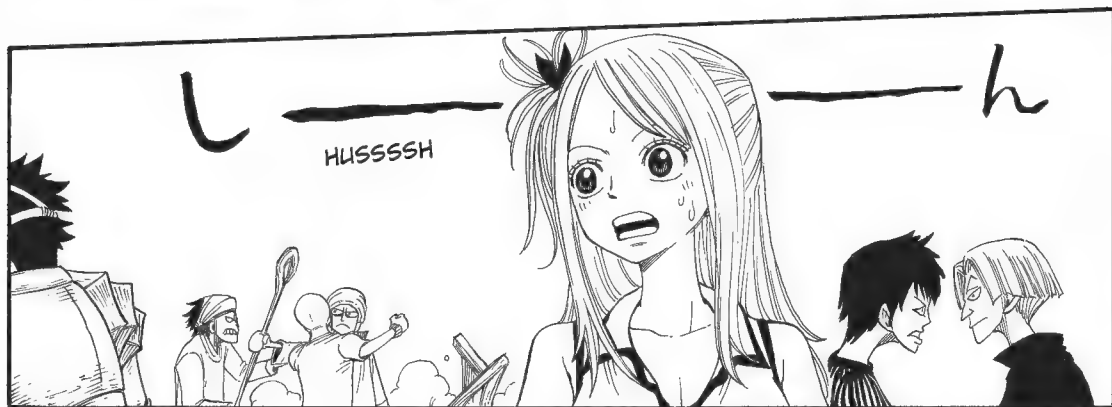
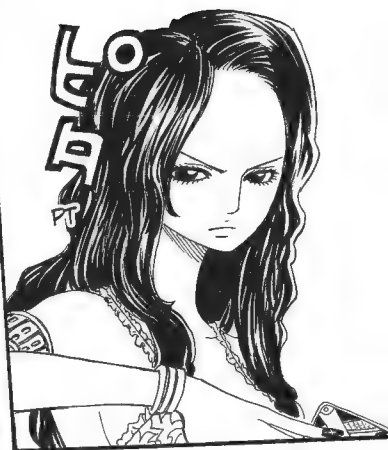
Then I
will!!!

PING

It's
huuuge
!!!!

Cut
it out,
you
dolts!!!!



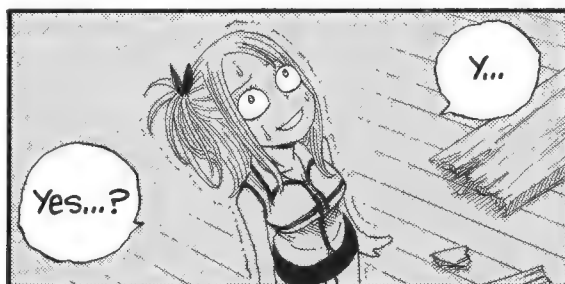




Then I
claim
victory
in

this
battle—

Dwa ha ha
ha ha ha!!!
You're all
scared of
that?!!



Yes...?

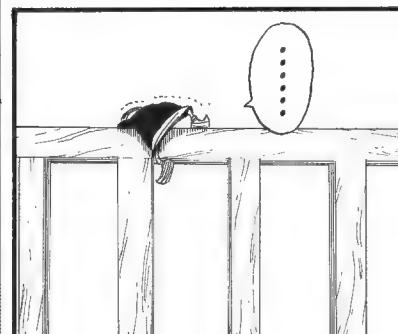
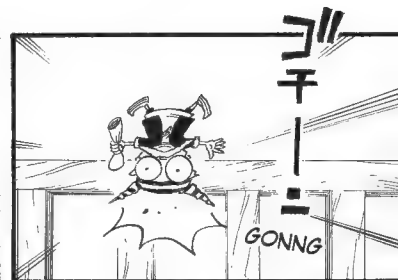
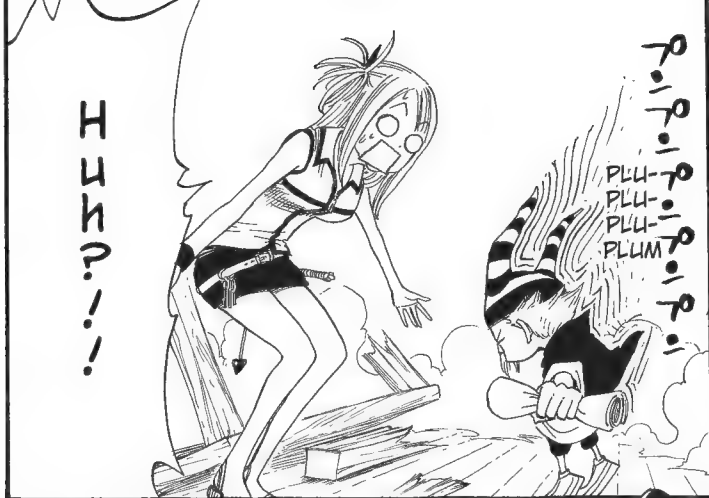
Y...



Hm?

A new
face?







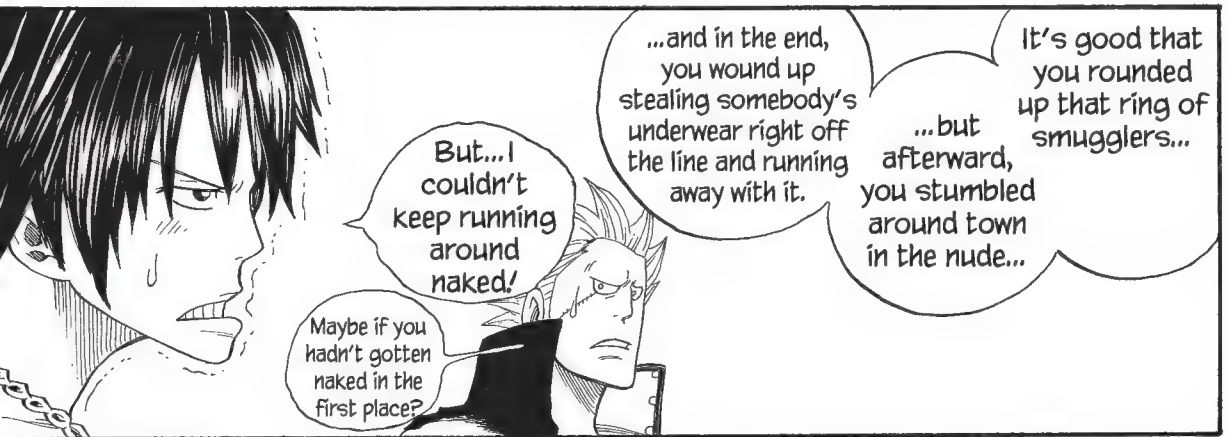
Gray!



The Council?
Isn't that the
body that
manages all
the wizard
guilds?



First...



But...I
couldn't
keep running
around
naked!

Maybe if you
hadn't gotten
naked in the
first place?

...and in the end,
you wound up
stealing somebody's
underwear right off
the line and running
away with it.

...but
afterward,
you stumbled
around town
in the nude...

It's good that
you rounded
up that ring of
smugglers...



Elfman!! While
performing
bodyguard
service for a VIP,
you attacked
that selfsame
VIP!

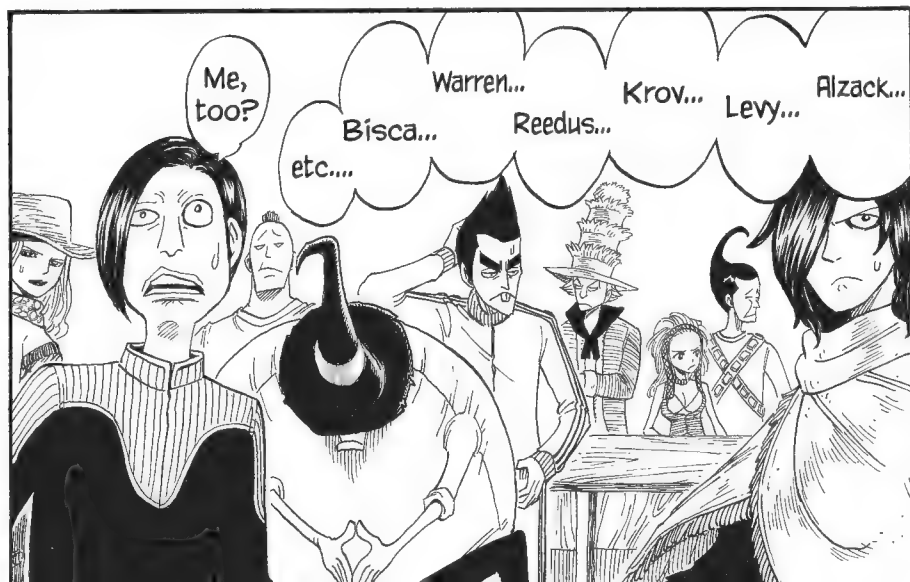
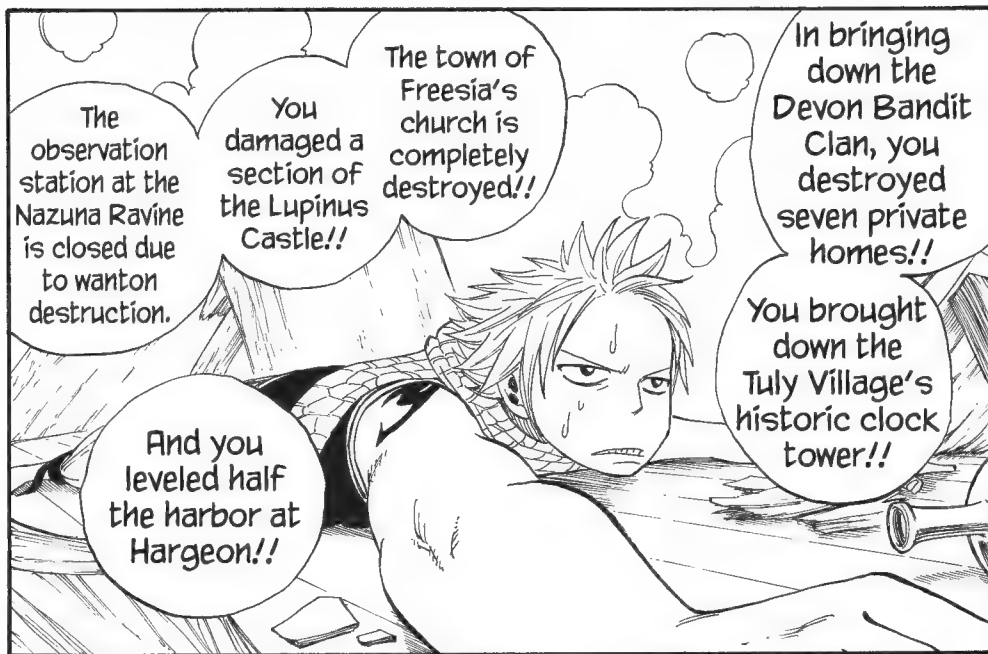
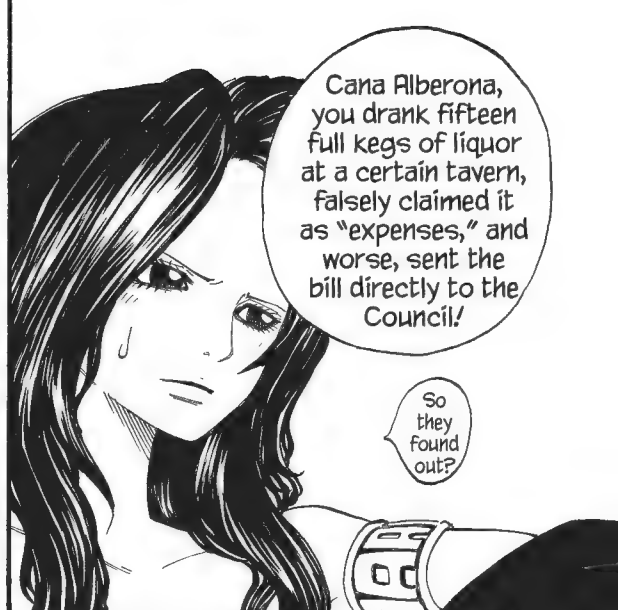
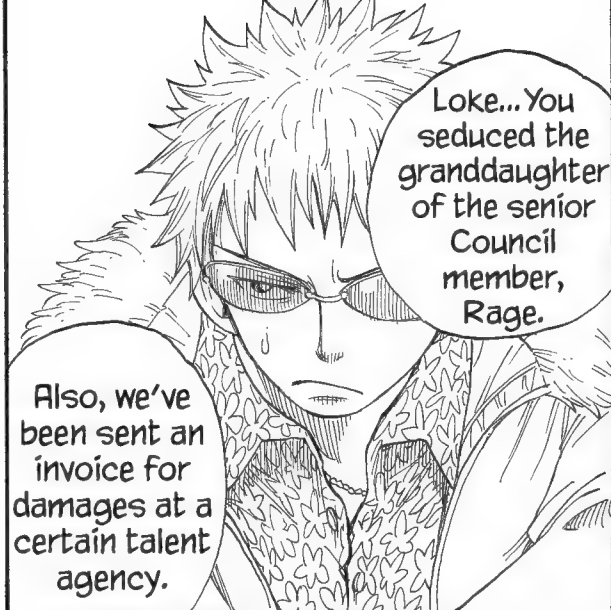
He made a crack
about how "a man is
only worth as much
as his education,"
and before I
knew it...

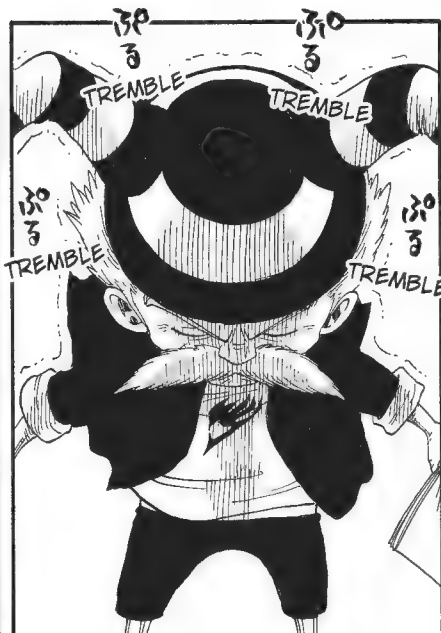


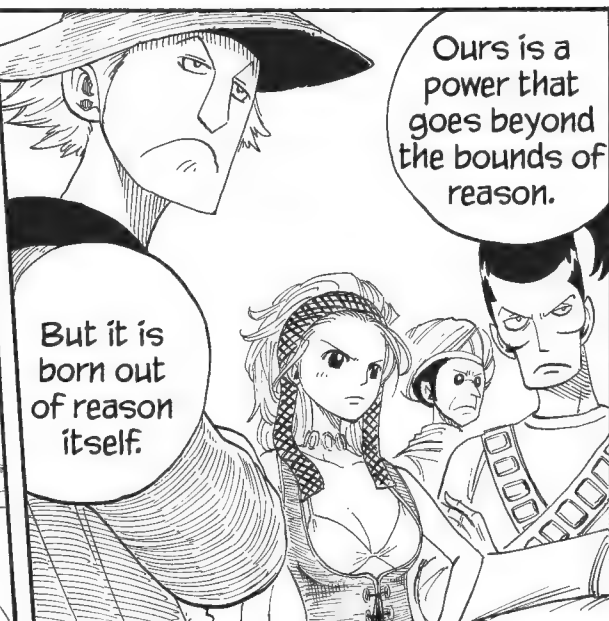
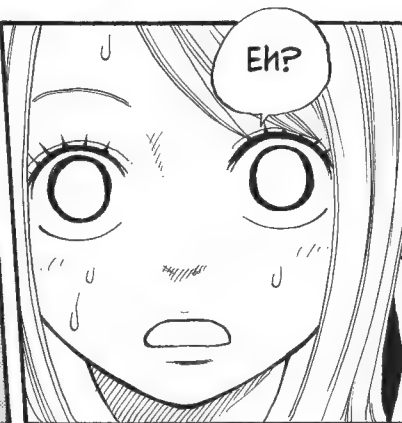
SHAKE SHAKE
ふる ふる

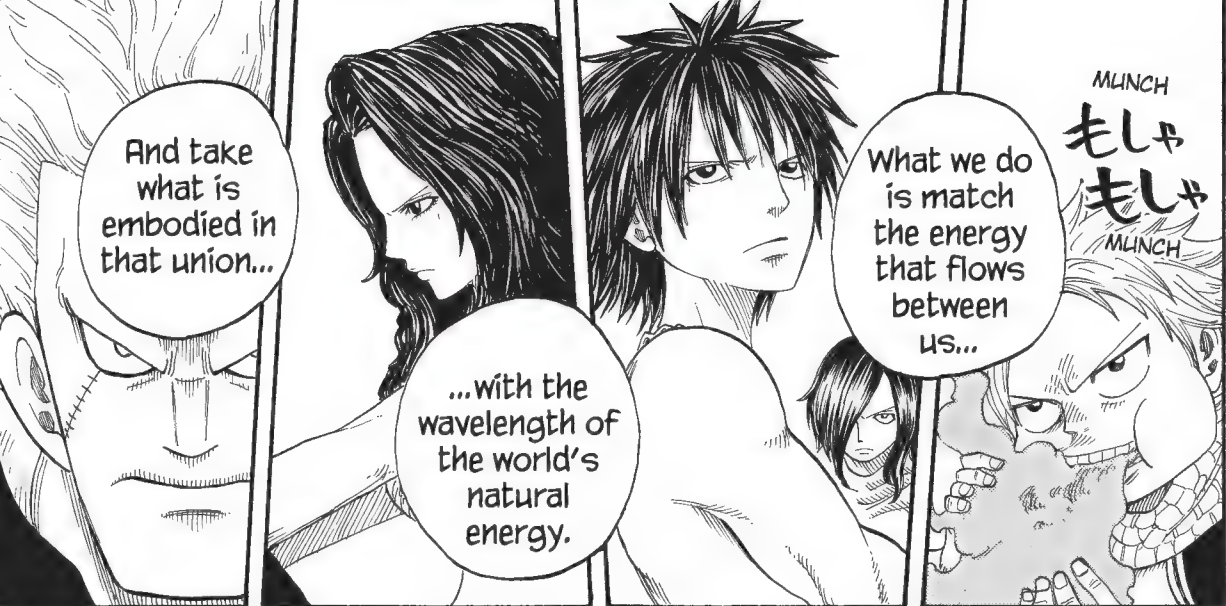


SIGH
はあ







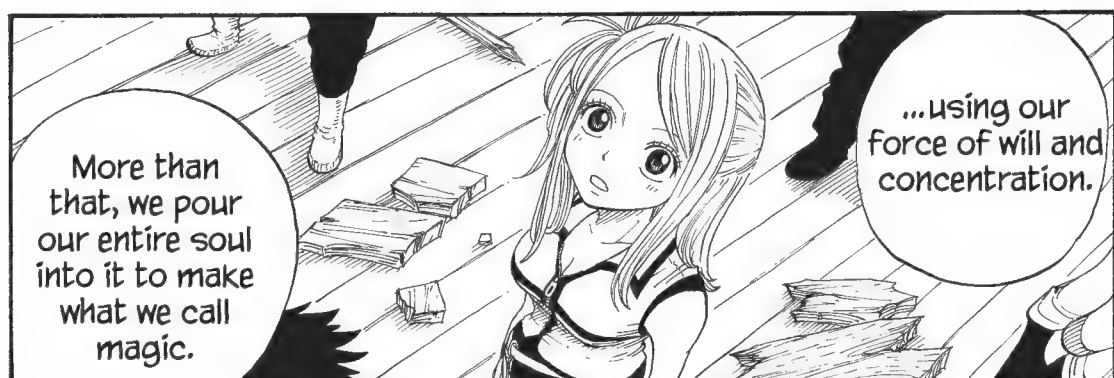


And take what is embodied in that union...

...with the wavelength of the world's natural energy.

What we do is match the energy that flows between us...

MUNCH
もしや
もしや
MUNCH



More than that, we pour our entire soul into it to make what we call magic.

...using our force of will and concentration.



So don't let those idiots on the Council intimidate you!!

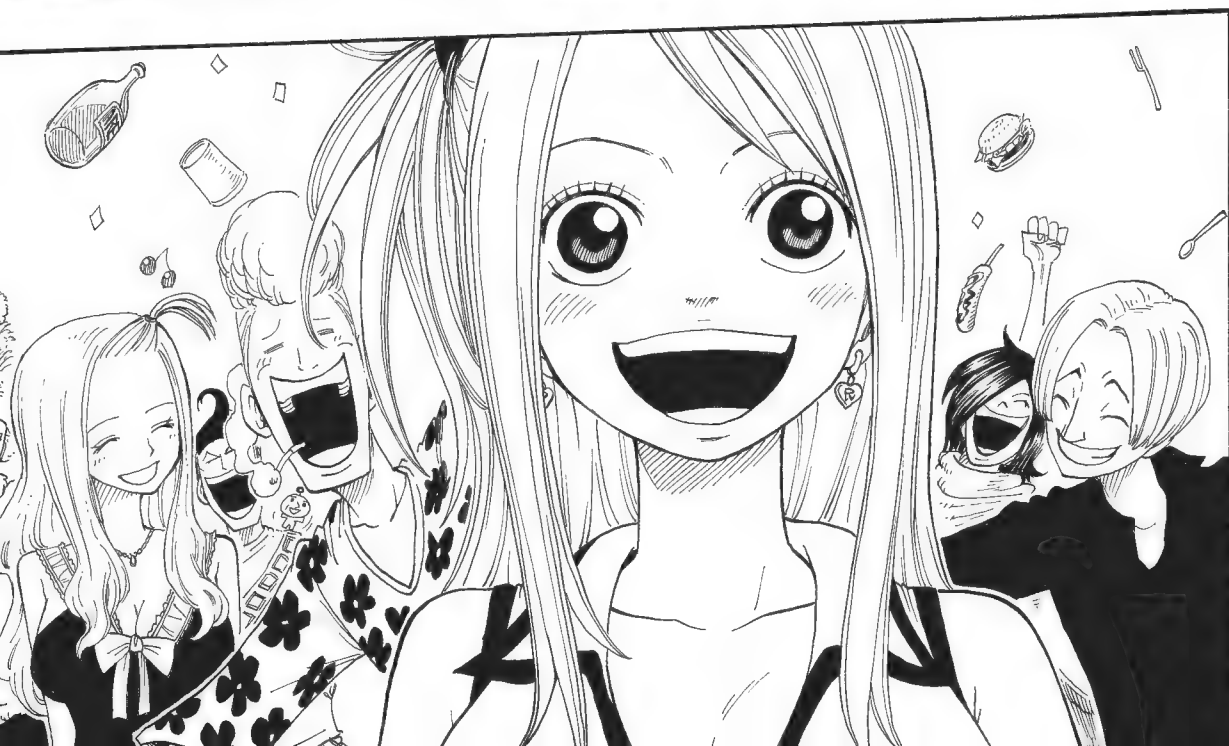
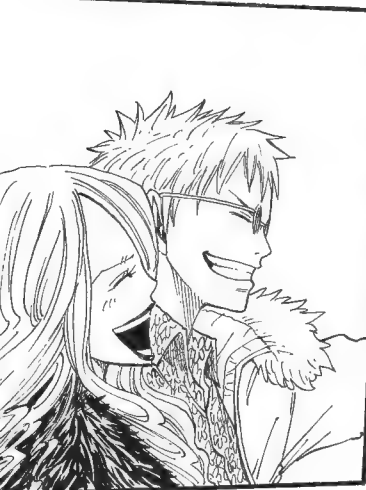
If you spend time worrying about what those in authority think of you, your magic will never advance!

HEH

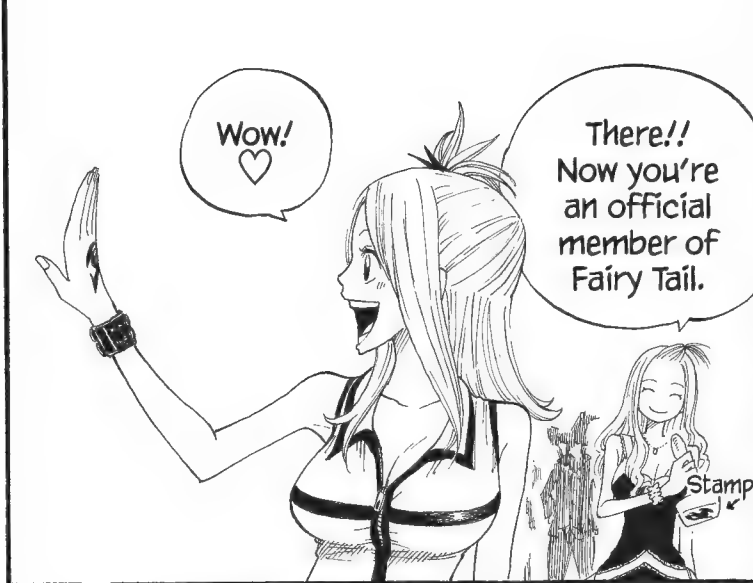


Follow the
path you
truly believe
in!!!!

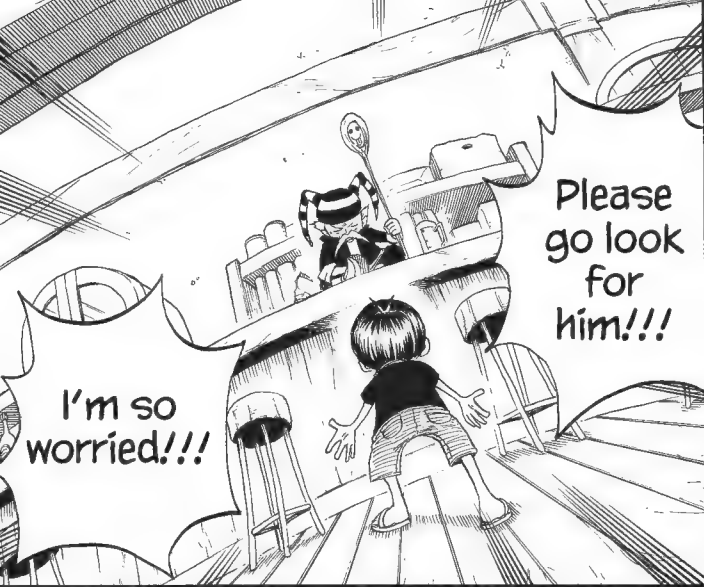
That is what
it means to
be a Fairy Tail
wizard!!!!











I'm so worried!!!

Please go look for him!!!



It isn't that far away!!!

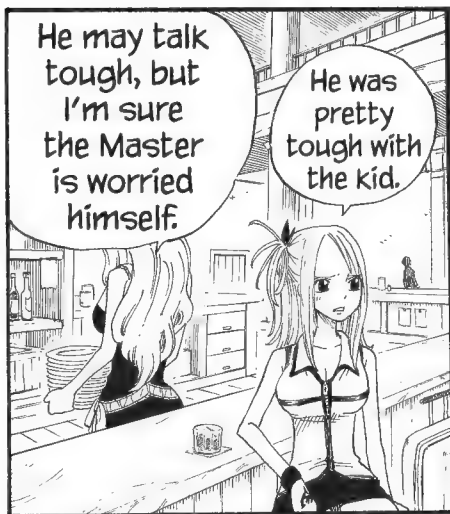
If I remember, Macao found some work at Hakobe Mountain...



Go home and drink some milk or something!!!

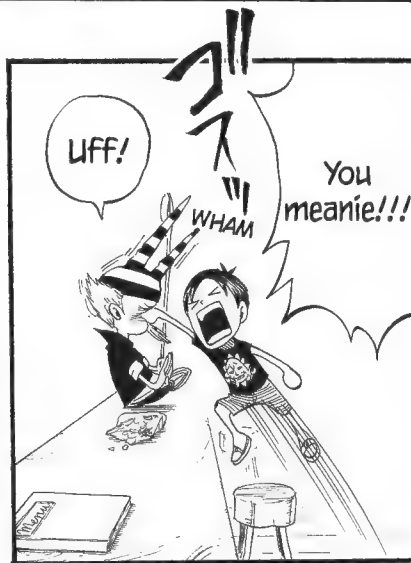
Don't even joke about that!!! Your father is a wizard, isn't he?!!

Any wizard who can't hack the easy stuff doesn't belong in the guild!!!



He may talk tough, but I'm sure the Master is worried himself.

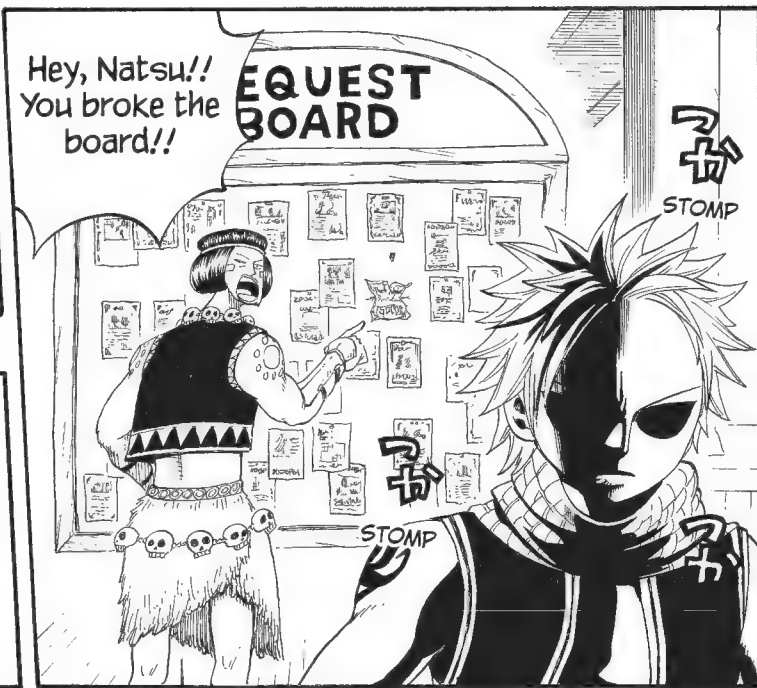
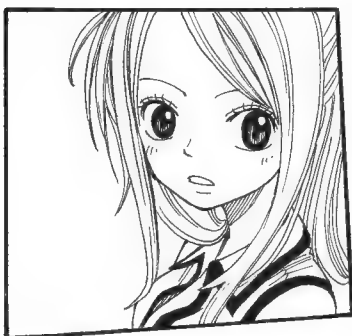
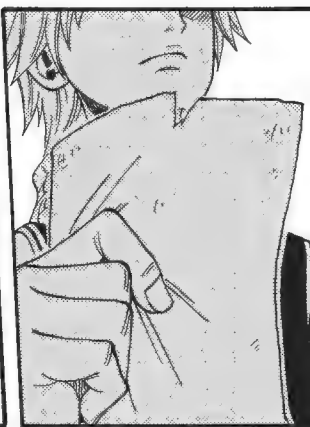
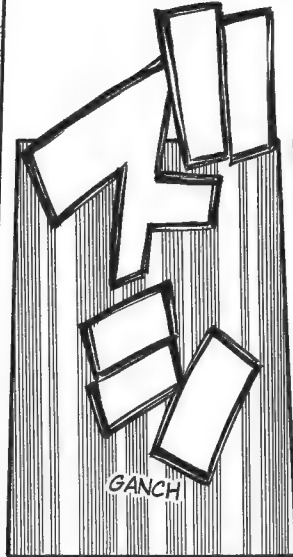
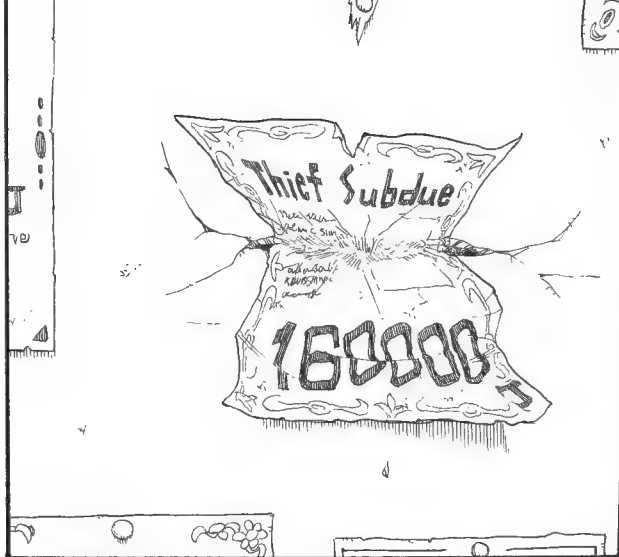
He was pretty tough with the kid.

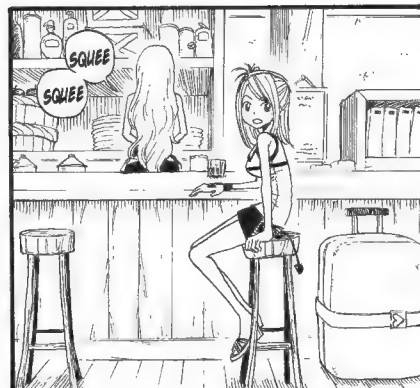


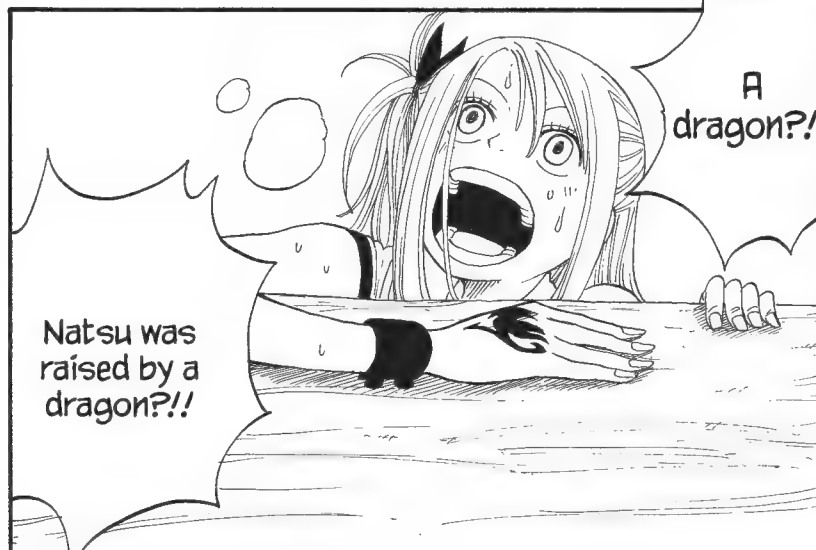
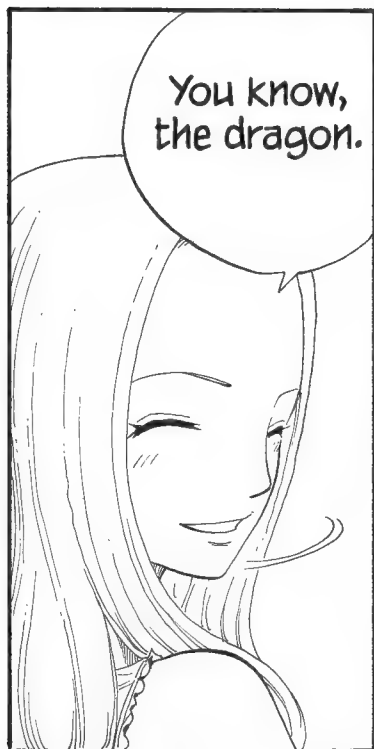
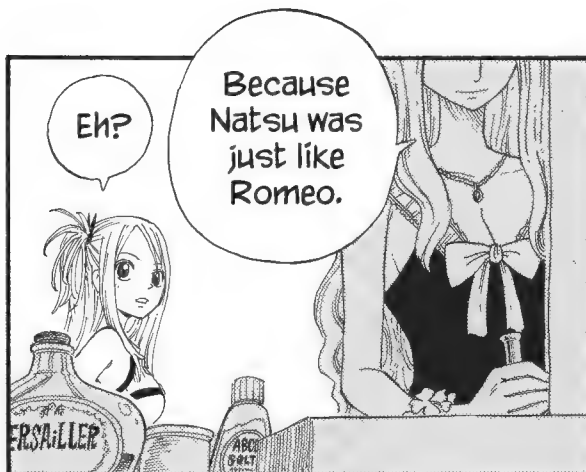
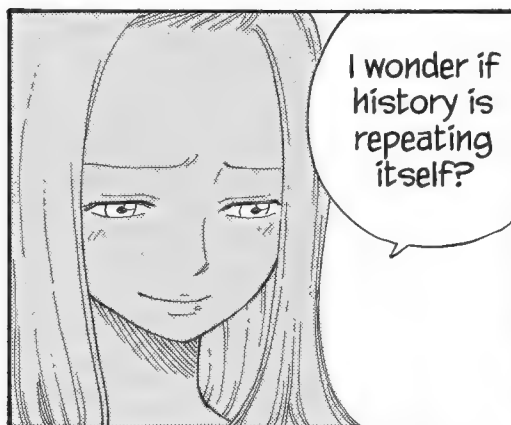
Uff!

WHAM

You meanie!!!



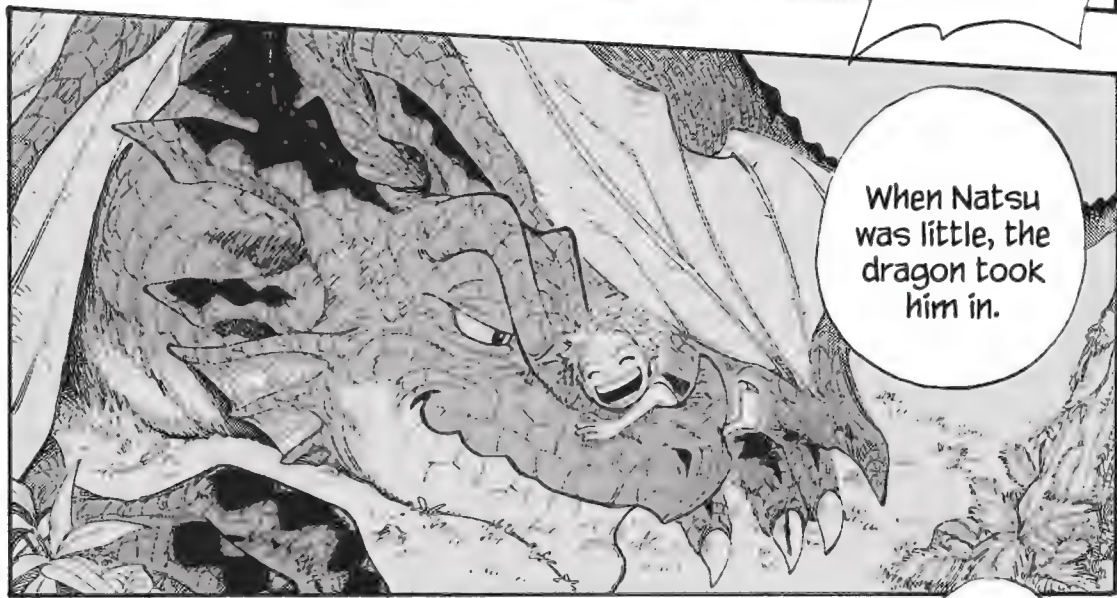






Listen...

How's anybody supposed to believe that?!!



When Natsu was little, the dragon took him in.



Taught him speech.

Culture...

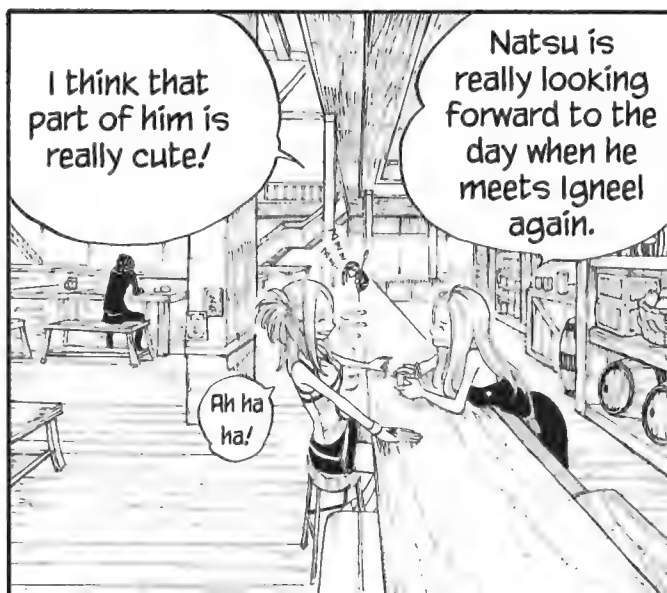
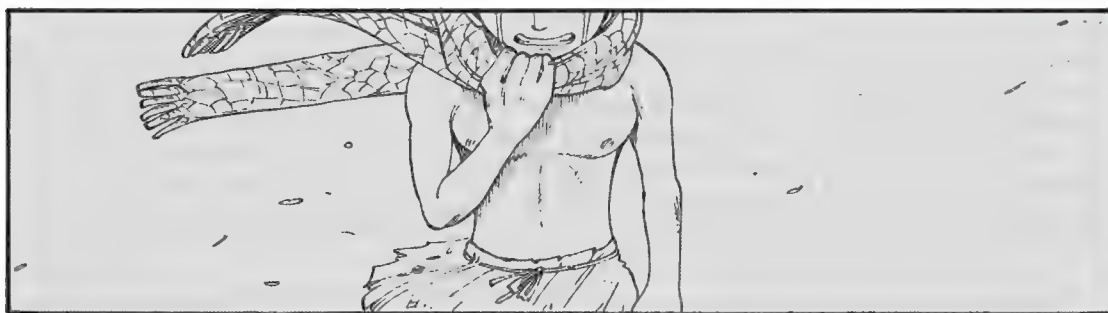


E!

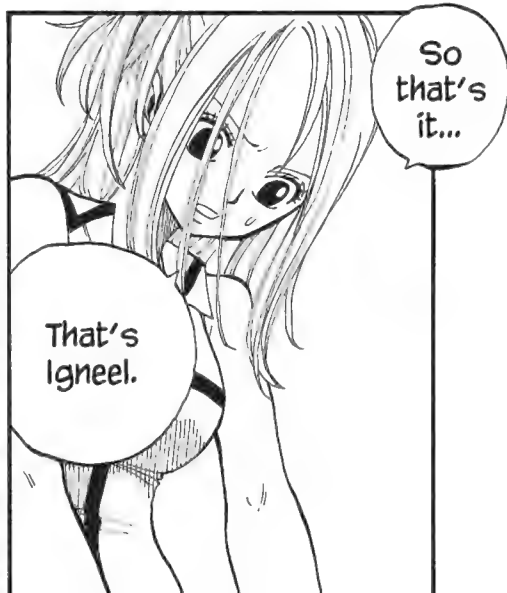


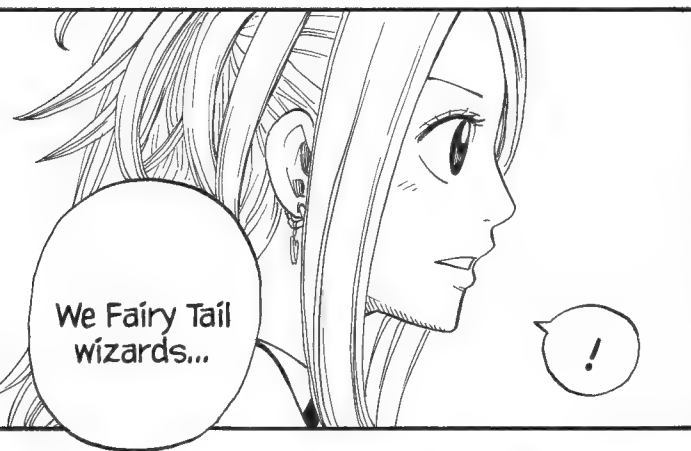
Magic... The dragon taught him everything.

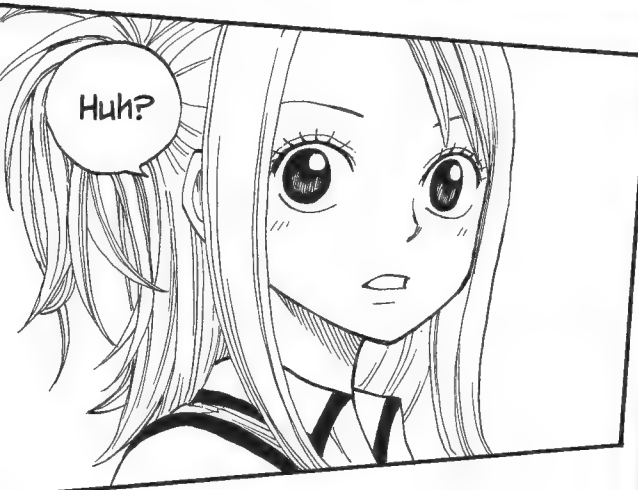
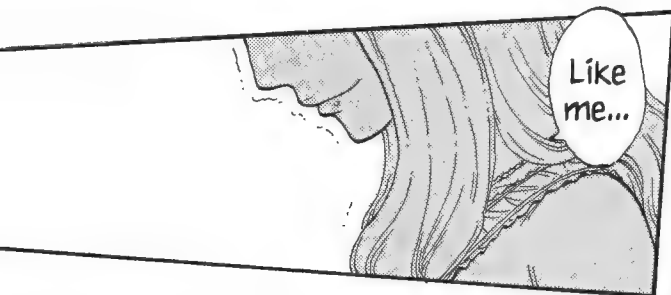


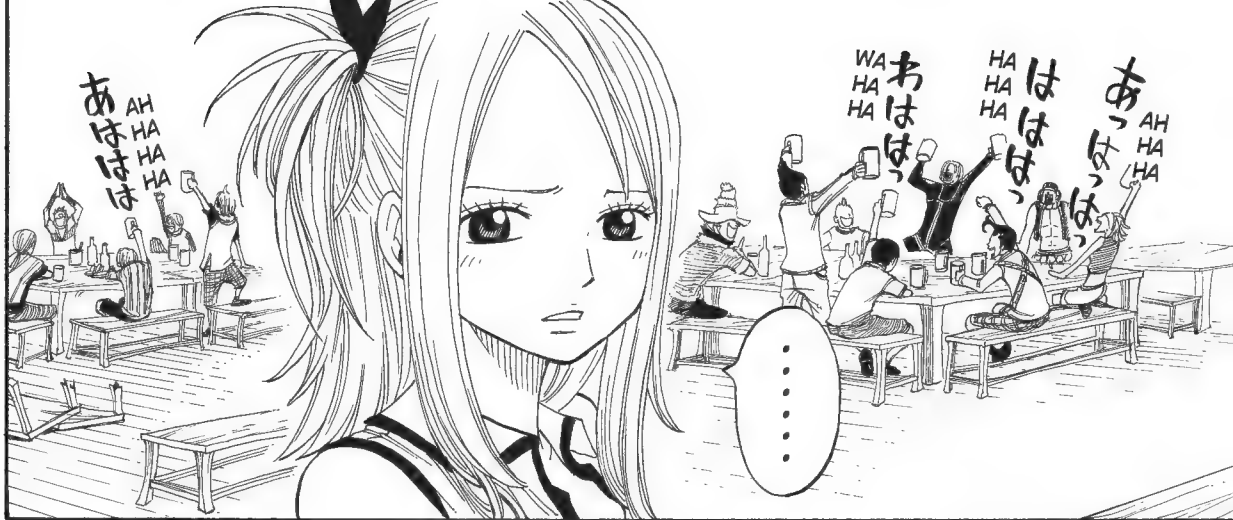


Natsu is really looking forward to the day when he meets Igneel again.











Still, I never figured you to be so bad at traveling!

Well, I finally made it to Fairy Tail, and I was hoping that I could be of some use!

You see?



And I figured that this would raise my stock with the place! I'm sure of it!!

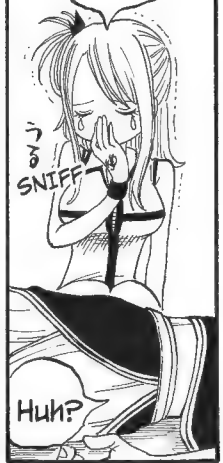


You can live with us at Natsu's place.

If I thought you were serious, I'd pull your whiskers out, kitty cat.

Once we finish our search for Macao-san, I'm going to have to find a place to live.

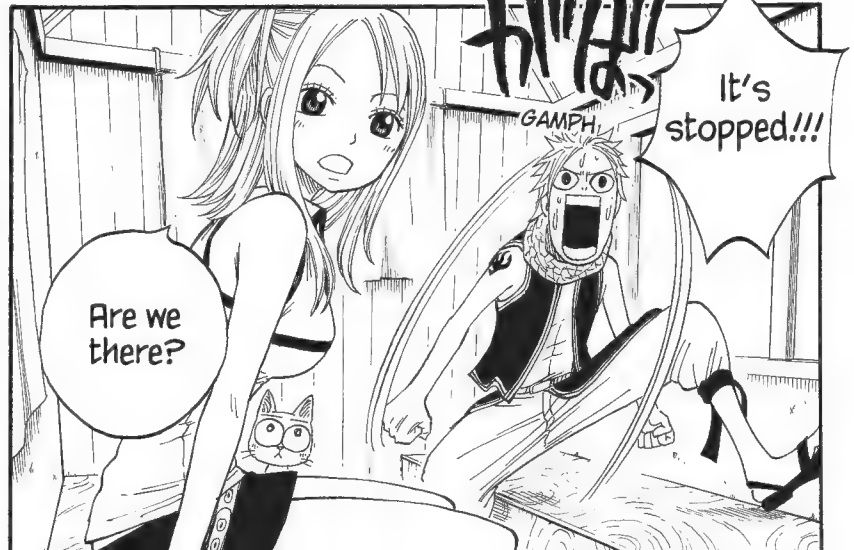
You poor, poor guy!



Huh?



F- Forgive me...

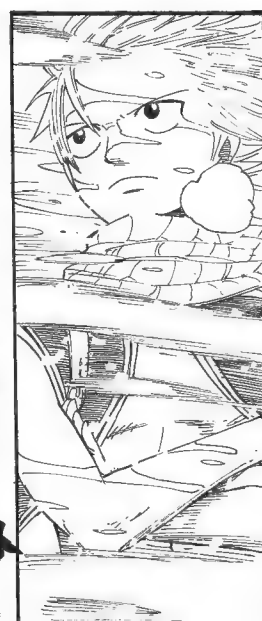


Are we there?

It's stopped!!!

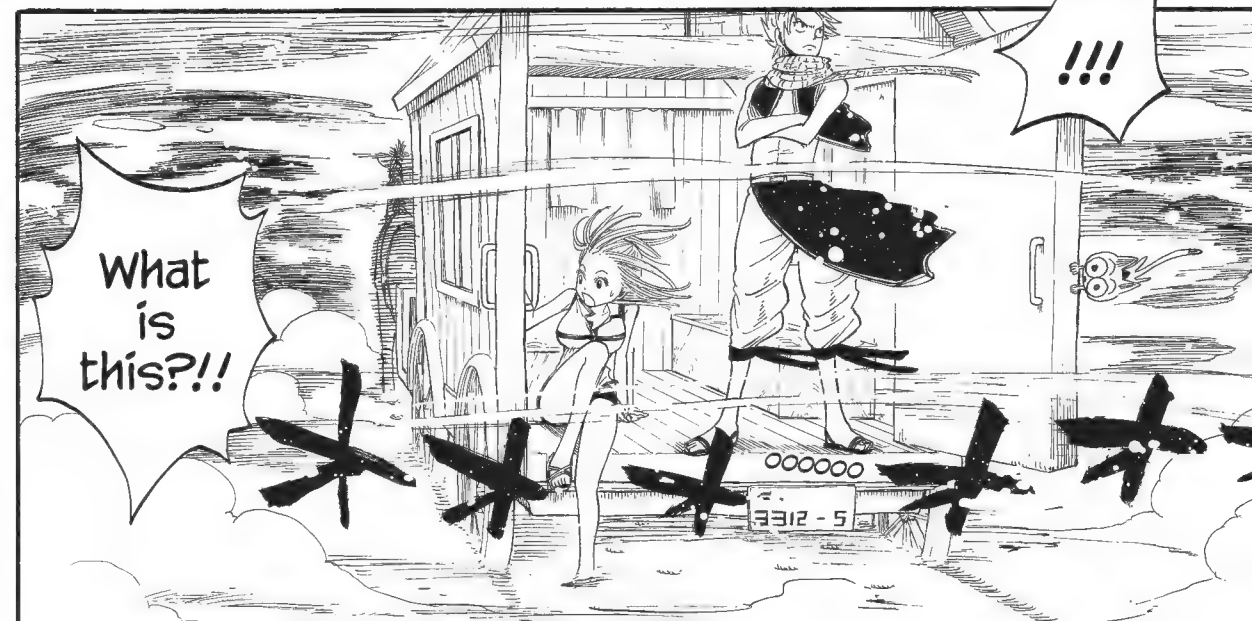


...but a horse-drawn carriage can't go any farther in this!



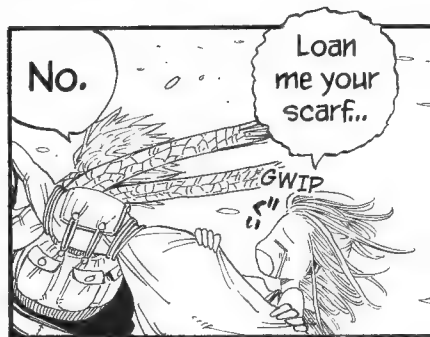
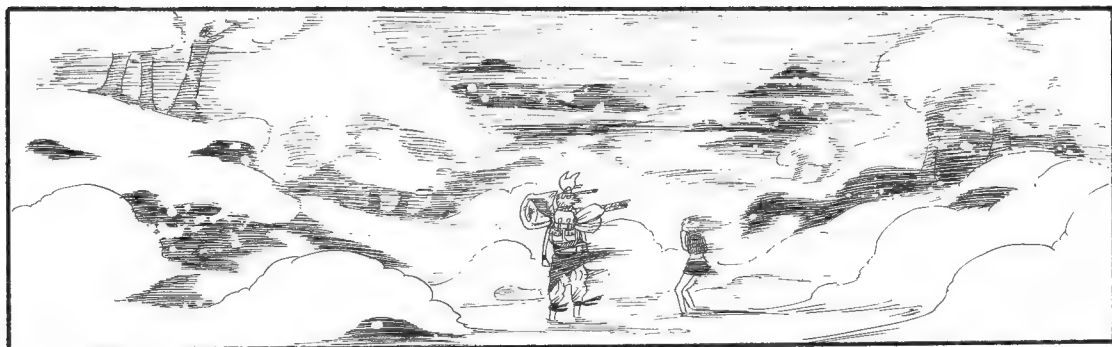
I don't care how high we are in the mountains, this is still summer!!!

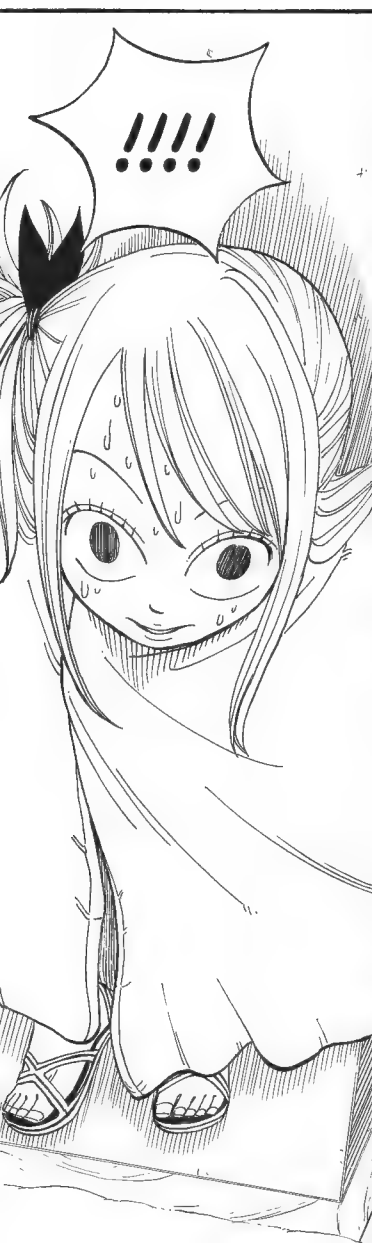
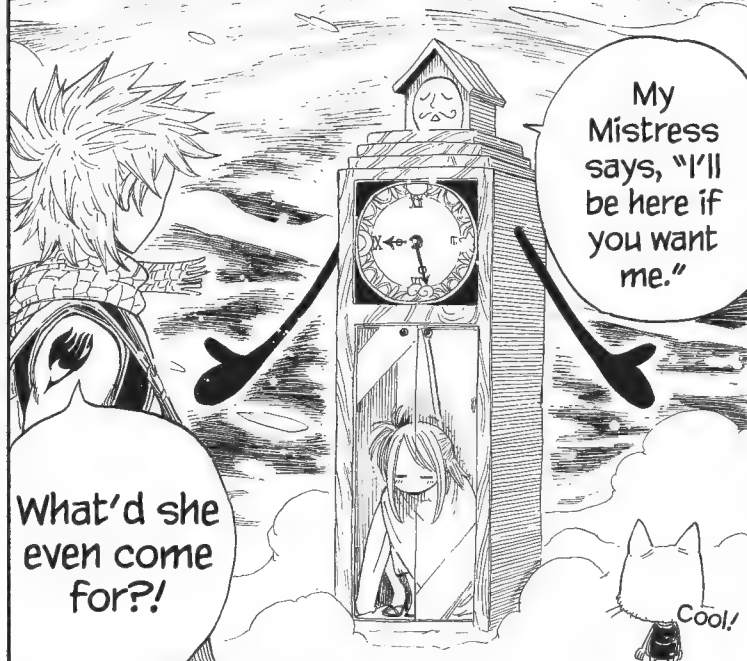
A blizzard now is just weird!!!

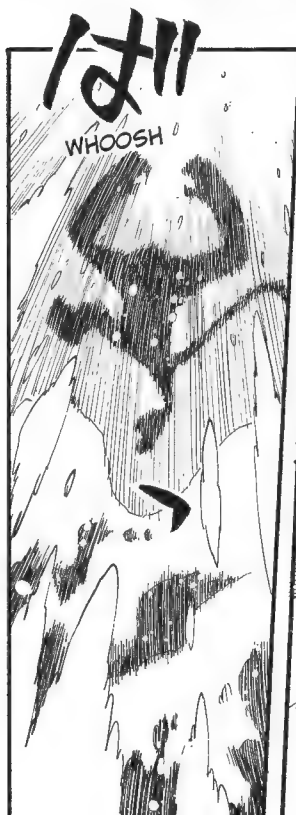


What is this?!!

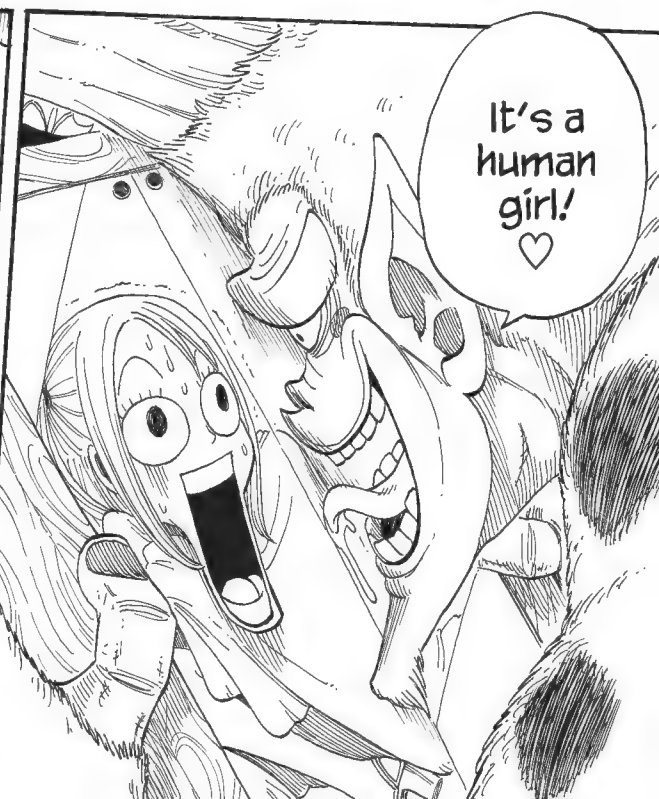
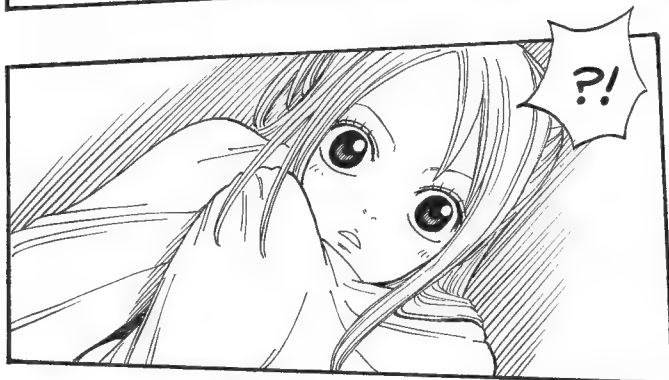
!!!

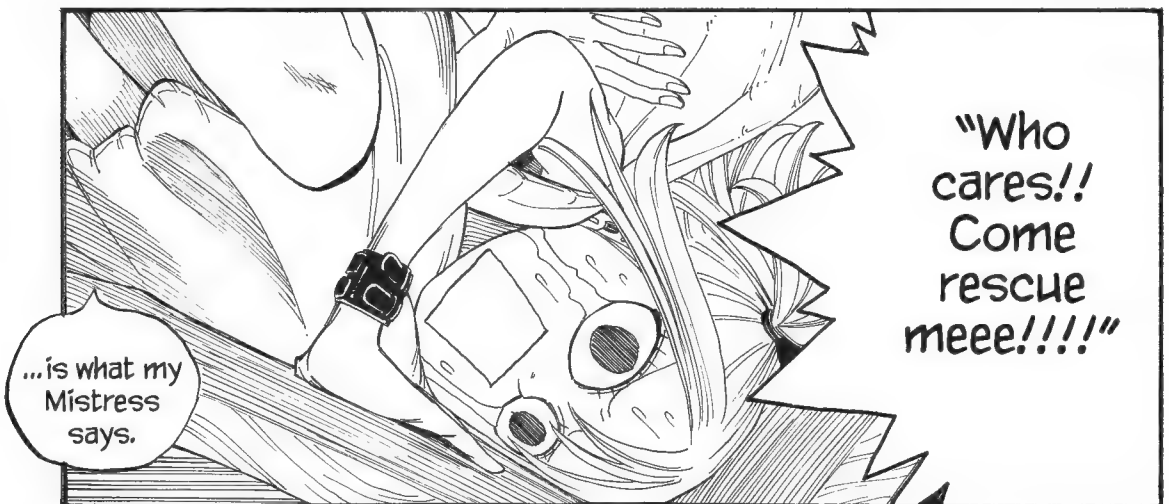


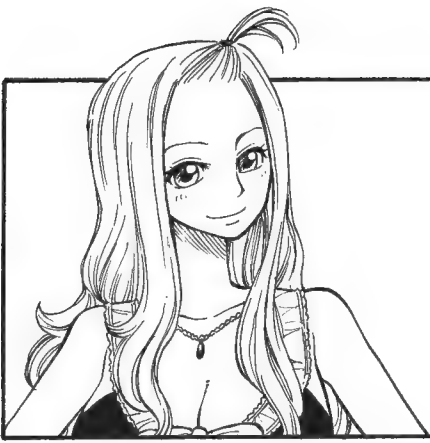












What Is a Guild?

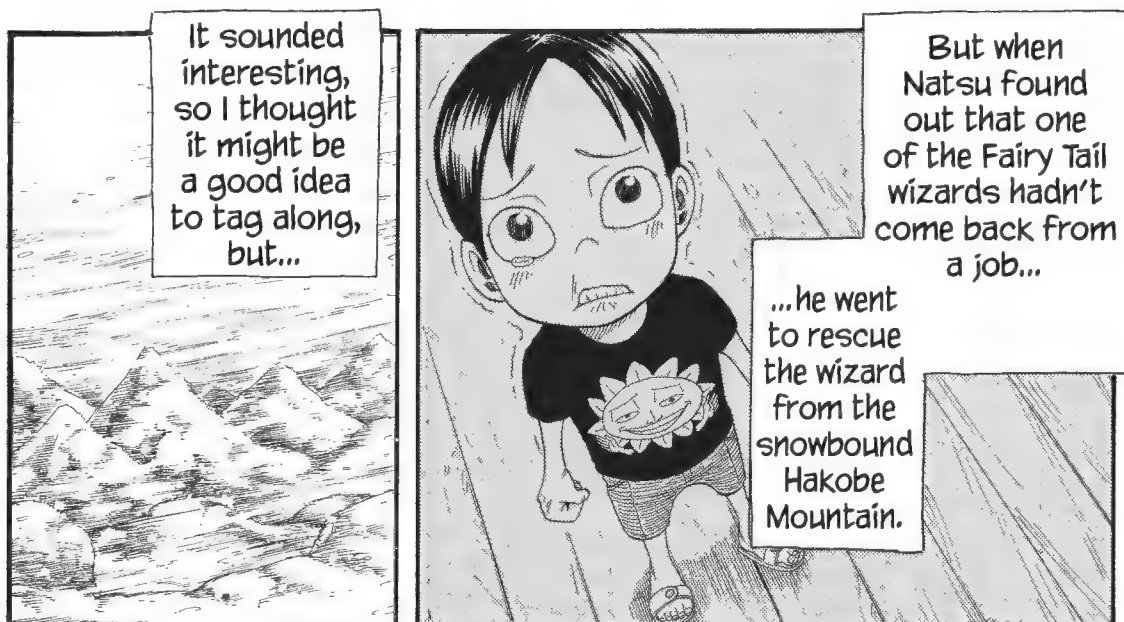
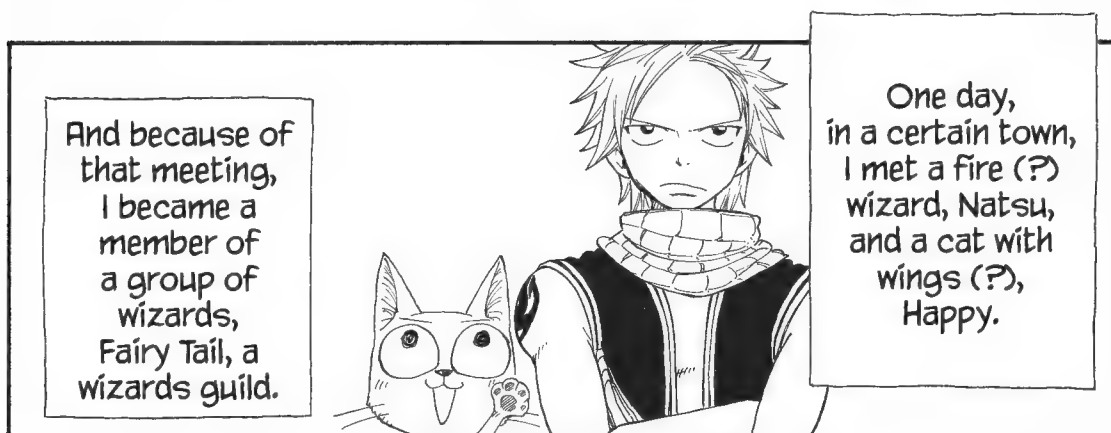
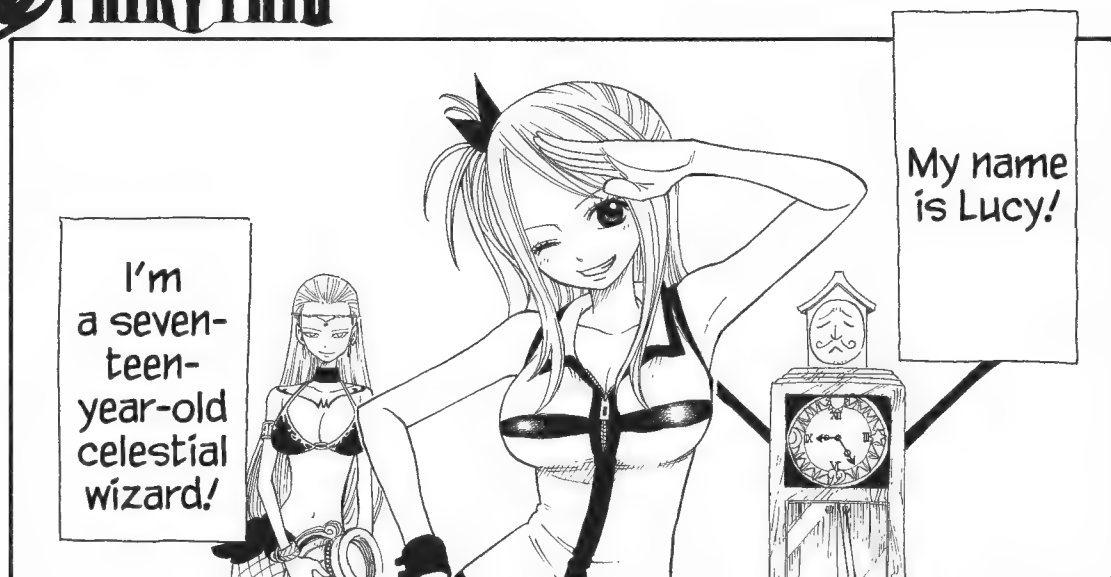
It's a word you don't hear much nowadays, huh? They gave an explanation in the book already, but there may be somebody out there who still doesn't get it, so for that person, I'd like to go into a little more detail.

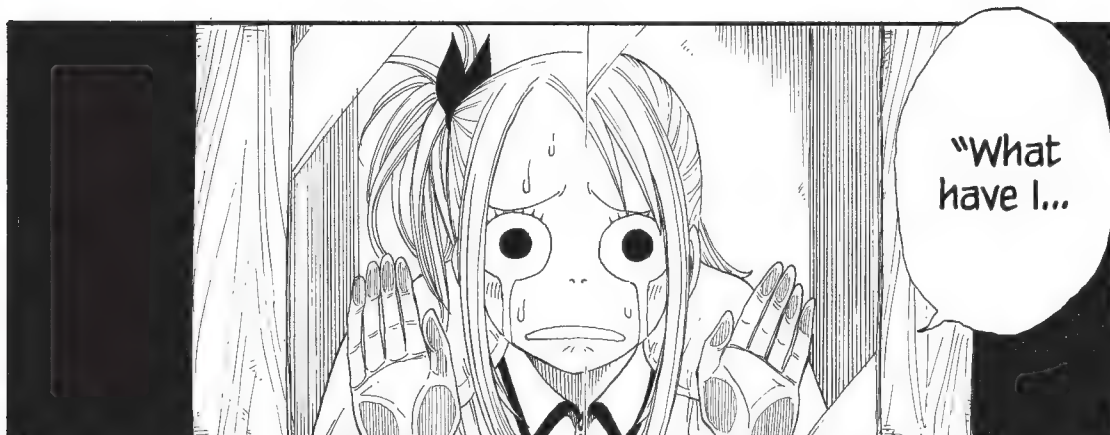
Originally, guilds began in Europe in the Middle Ages. You can think of them as groups of people working in a single type of industry who join forces and act on their decisions together. At the time, guilds were only for tradesmen and craftsmen, but for the purposes of this story, we thought, "What the heck? Let's make a story about craftsmen whose craft is wizardry!" And thus, this book.

So why did guilds arise in the first place? It's because the world is full of dangers. Tradesmen cross mountains and oceans to sell their wares. But there are pirates on the oceans and bandits in the mountains who are after the tradesmen's goods. Hiring soldiers costs a lot of money. So what to do? Well, why shouldn't everyone go together?!

And that's how many people with the same objective first gathered together. The danger never really went away, but they had more strength together than alone, right? One additional benefit was that the guild would take care of a tradesman's house when he was off on business. Eventually, the guilds became too powerful, and they were the causes of wars. But if you're really interested in that part, go do some studying. (Ha ha!)

In other words, a guild is where people with similar objectives congregate. In this story, the people are a group of wizards who earn their living by using magic to help solve other people's problems. "Earn your living" may sound a little too "grown-up" for some of you, but it means that wizards have a lot of adventures to look forward to. That's what the wizard guild is all about!

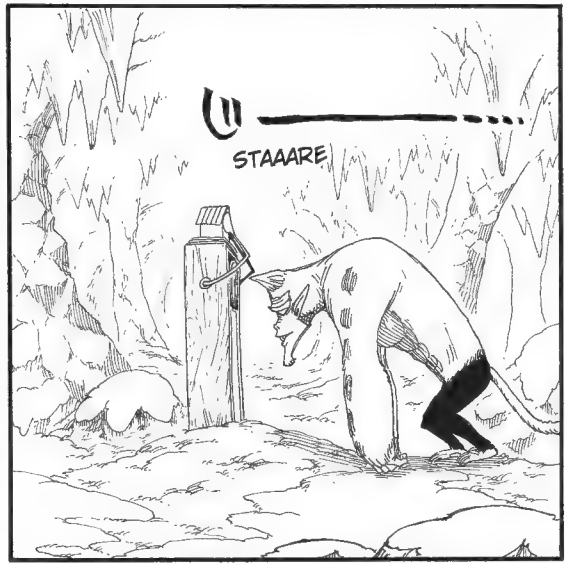
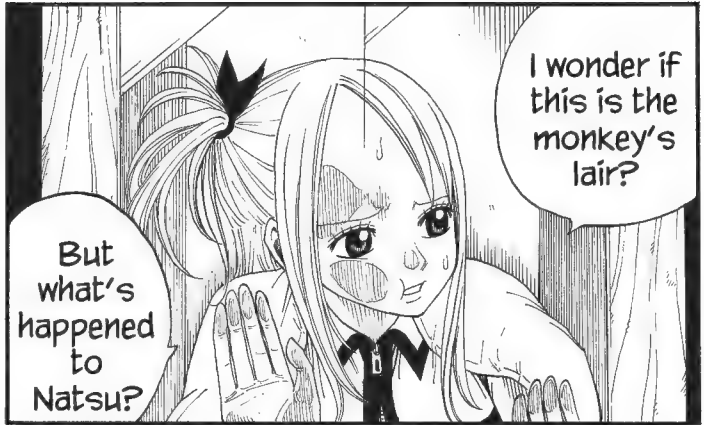
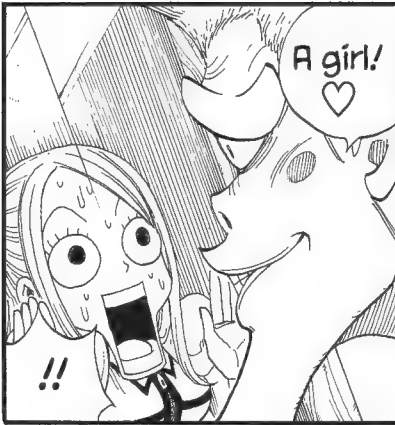


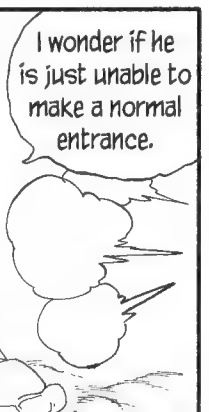
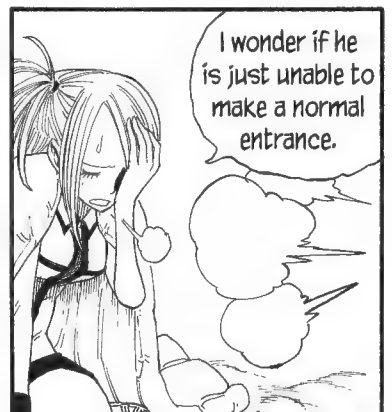
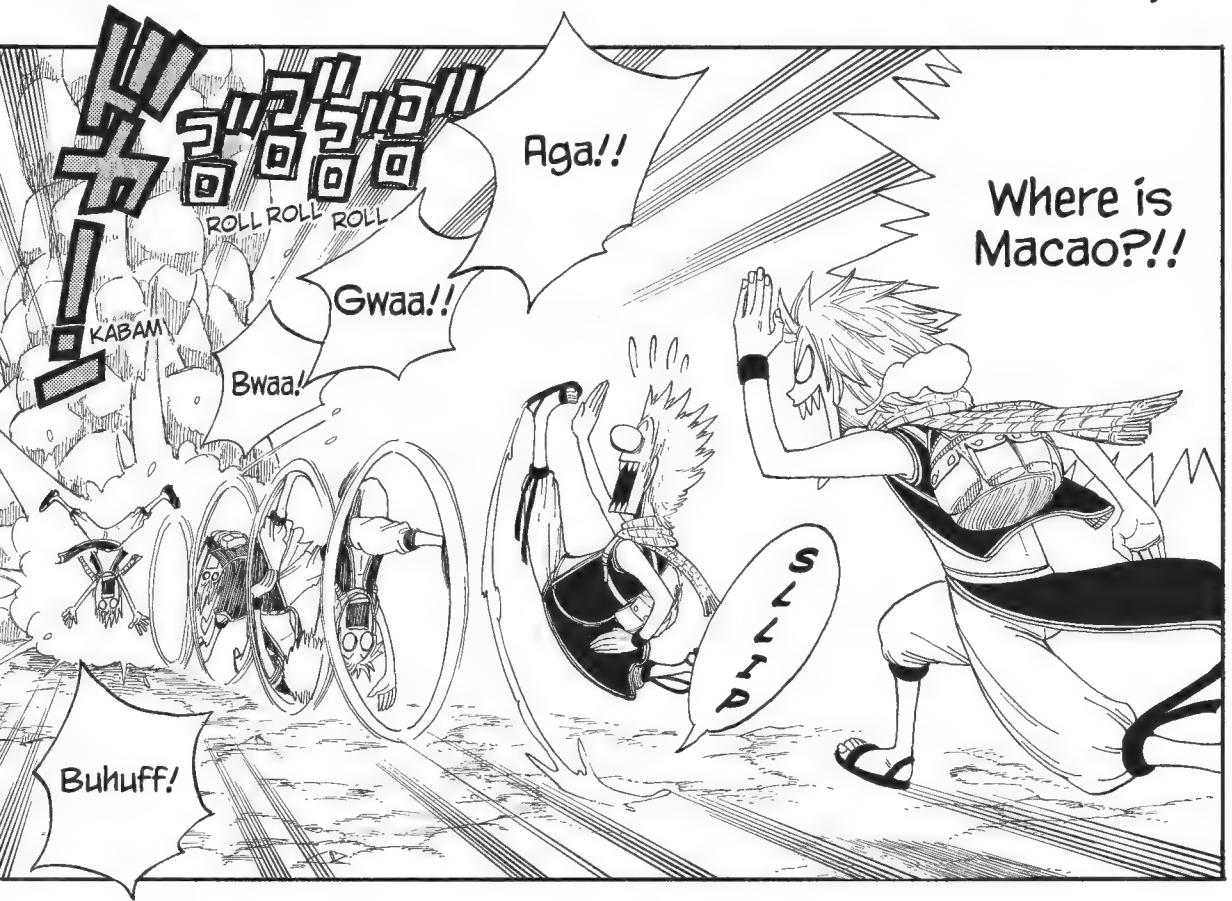
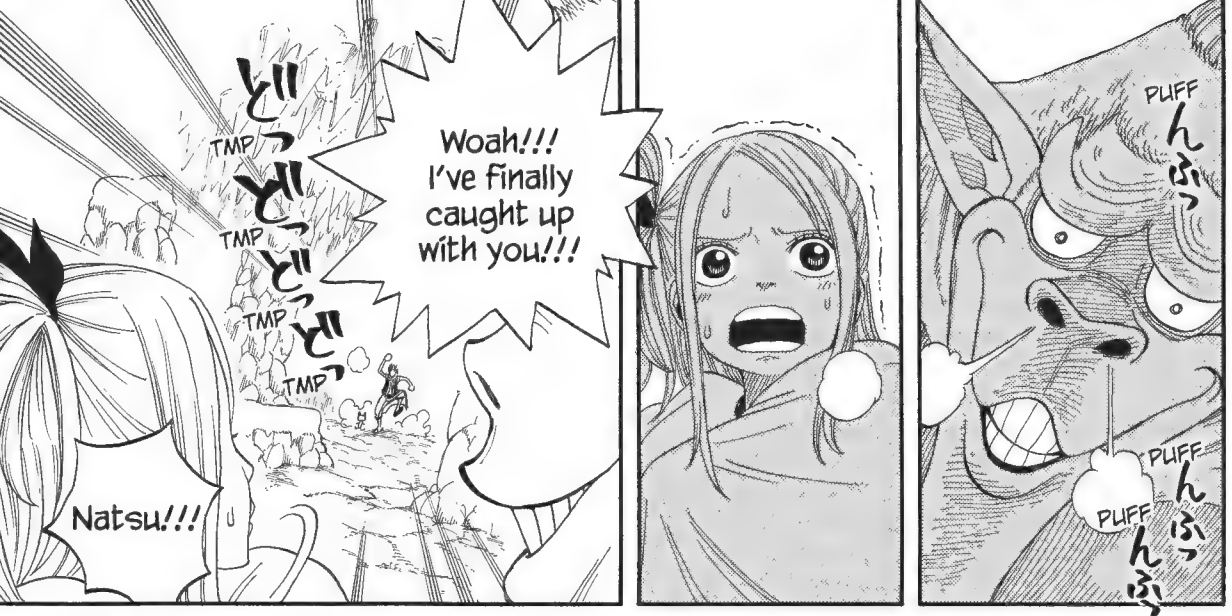


FAIRY TAIL



Chapter 3: Fire Dragons and Monkeys and Cows







Man?

That's right!!

SST SST SST SST

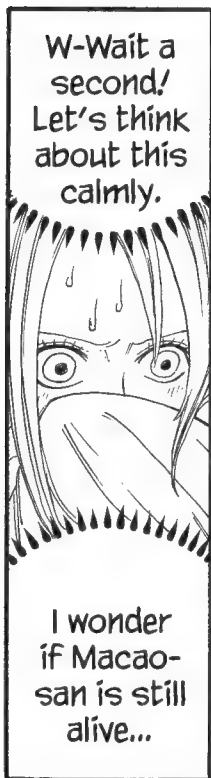
PLIK

A human man!!

You understand what we're saying, right? I'm talking about Macao!!



Ho?



W-Wait a second! Let's think about this calmly.

I wonder if Macao-san is still alive...



Where are you hiding him?!!

Wha-?! Nobody ever said he's being hidden!!!



Where?!!



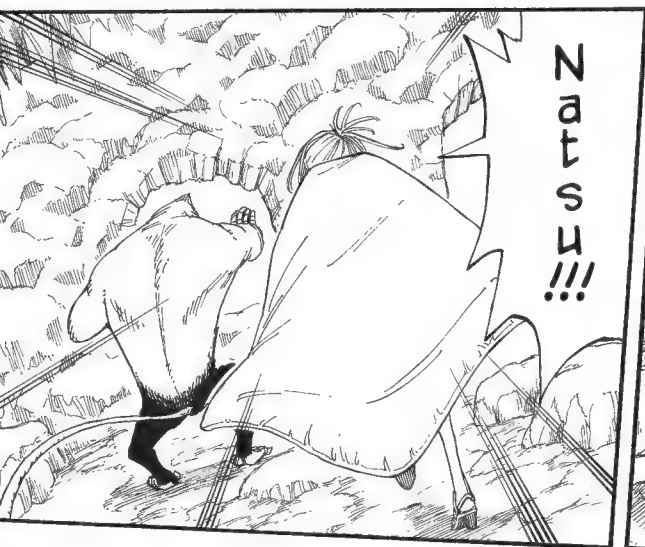
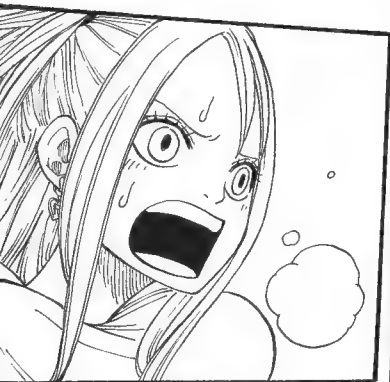
Maybe Macao-san is already...

Oh! So we understand each other!!

Uho ho!

GWIP GWIP









I command
the Gate of
the Golden
Bovine
Palace to
open!

Taurus!!!!

Moo!!!!

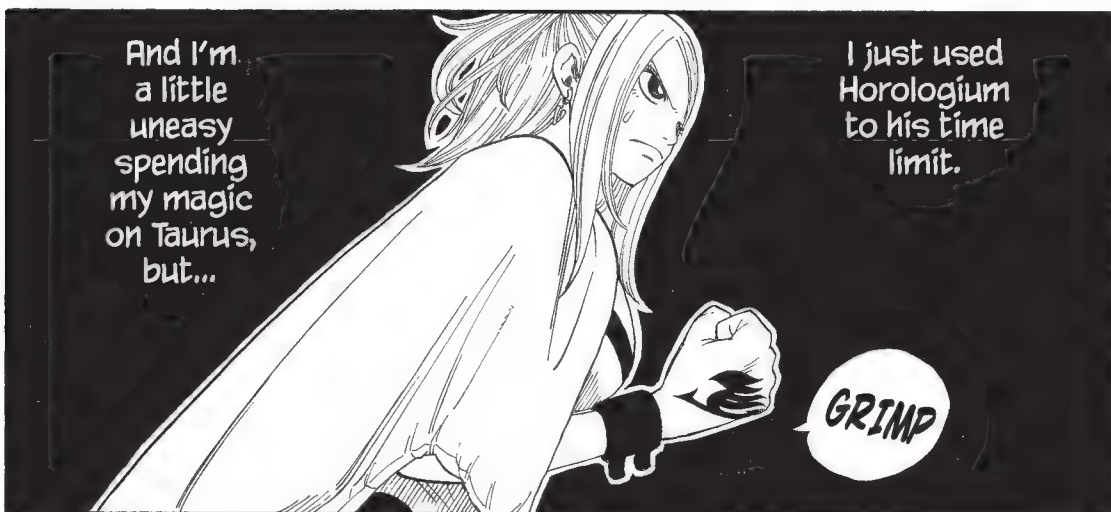
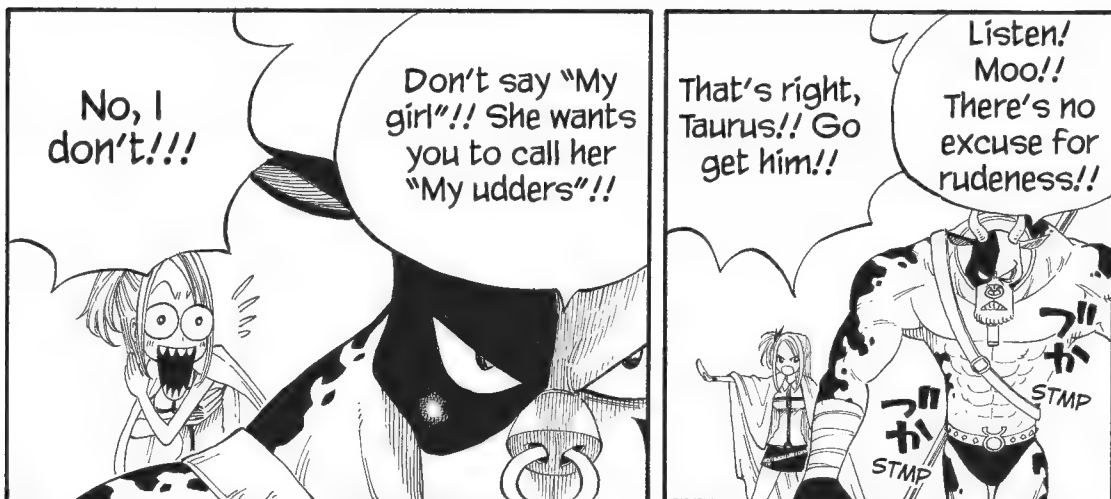
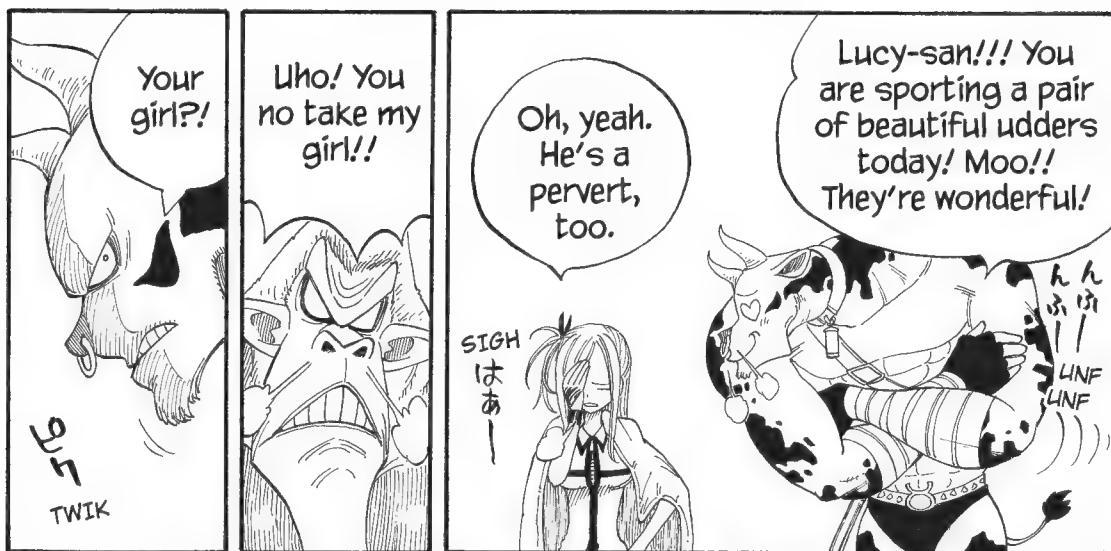


You
perverted
ape!!

You are
now facing
Taurus!! The
most powerful
celestial
spirit I have
contracted!!!



Cow?!!





Who!!!

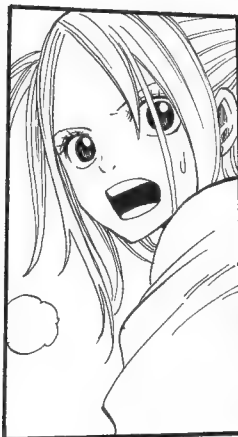
Moo!! I'm ready!!!!

The best thing is to make a blitz attack on the monkey and then go looking for Natsu.

Taurus!!!



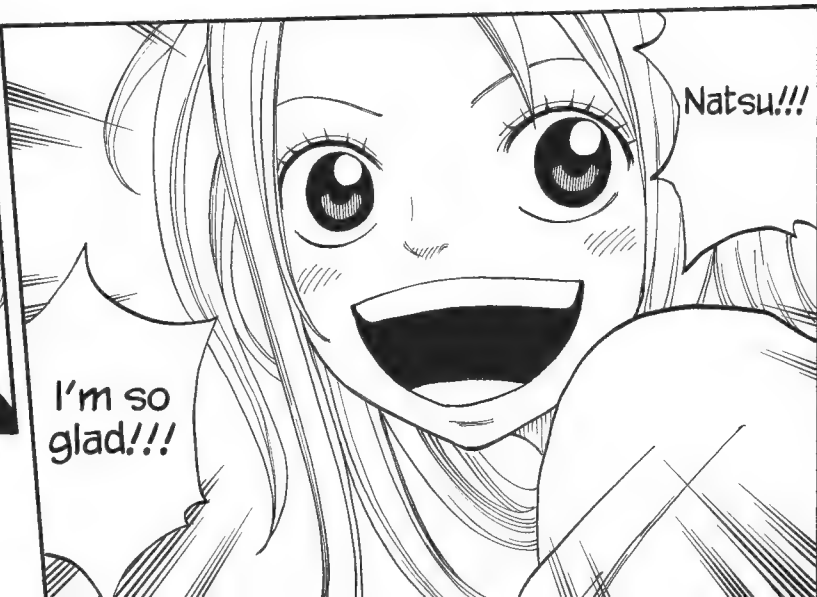
That...was... a...close... call...



That was good work pushing me out.

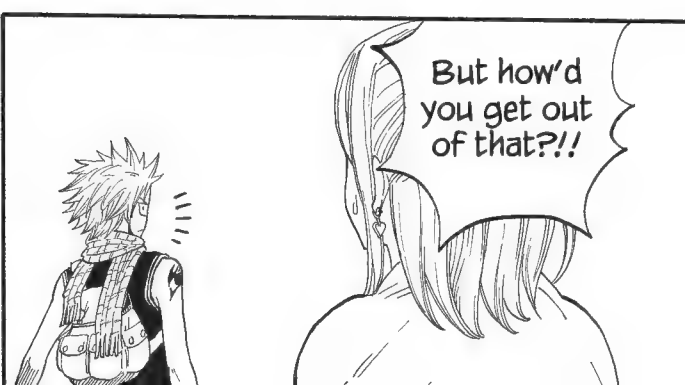
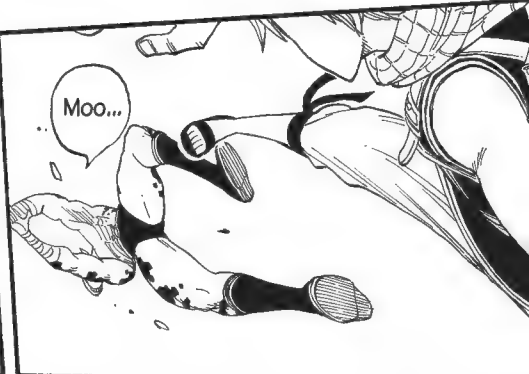
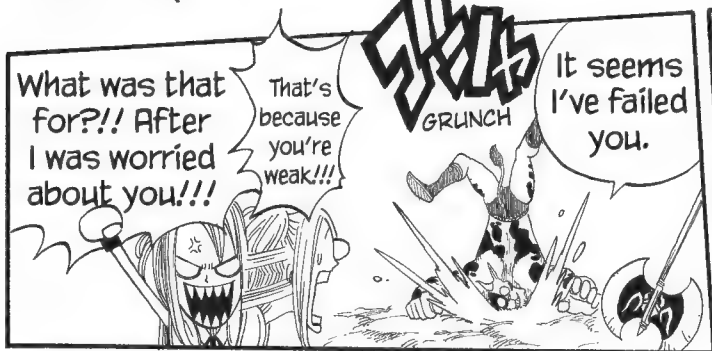


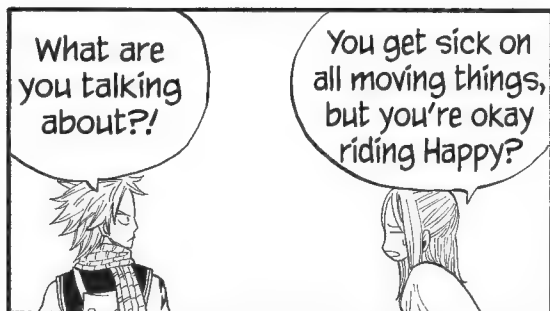
Hm?

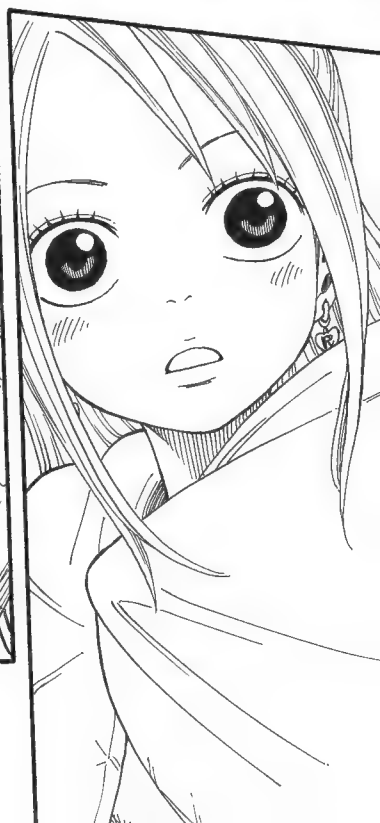


Natsu!!!

I'm so glad!!!







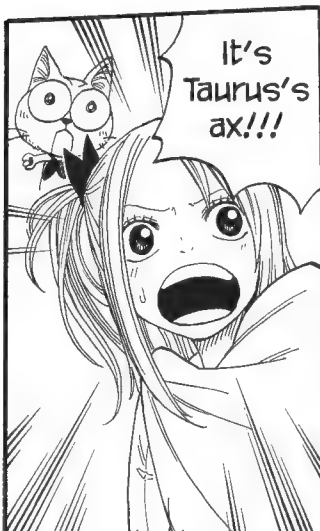


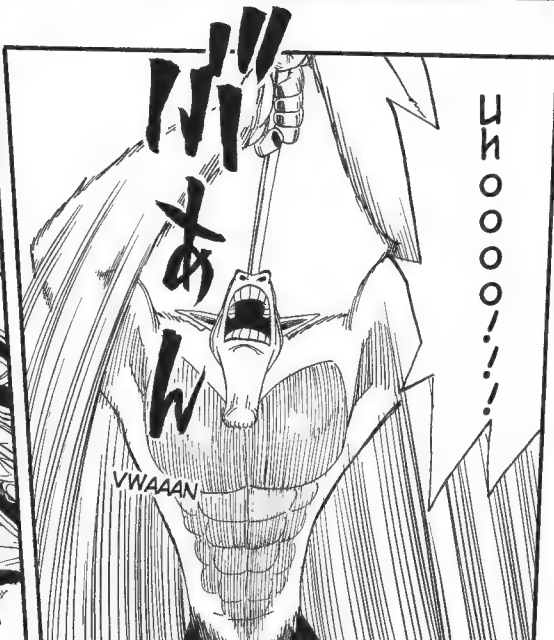
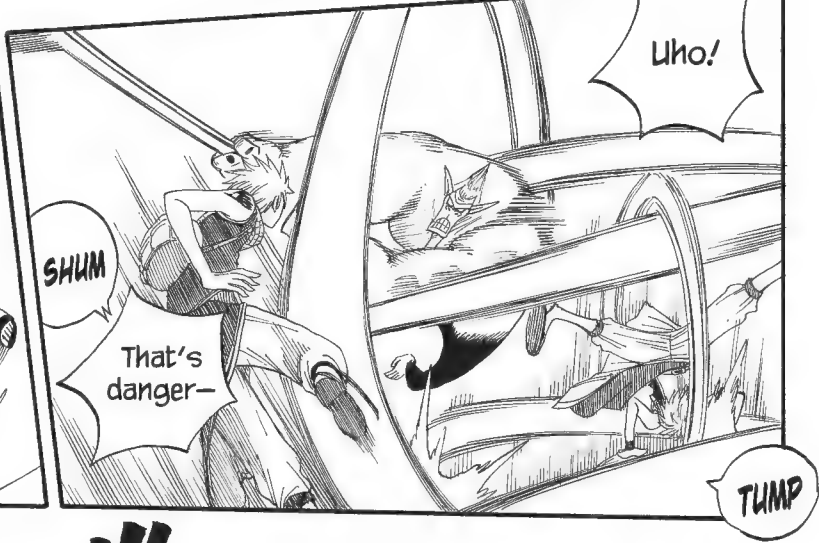
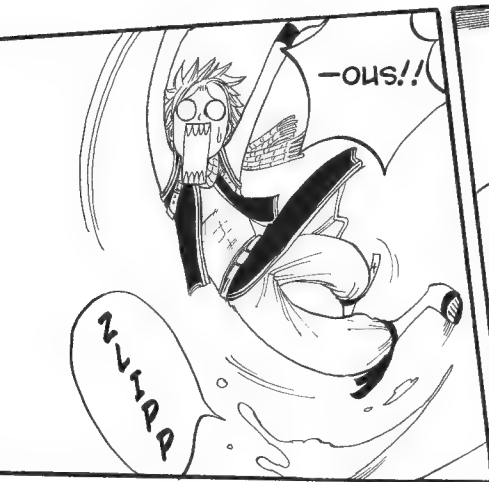


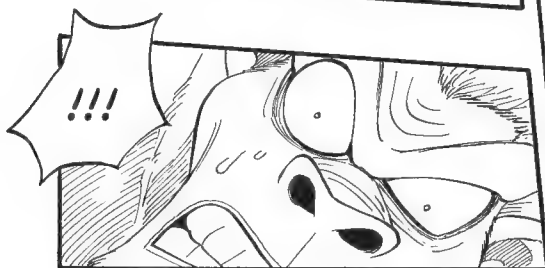
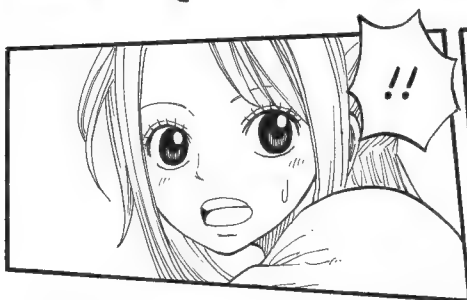
Uho
ho!!!

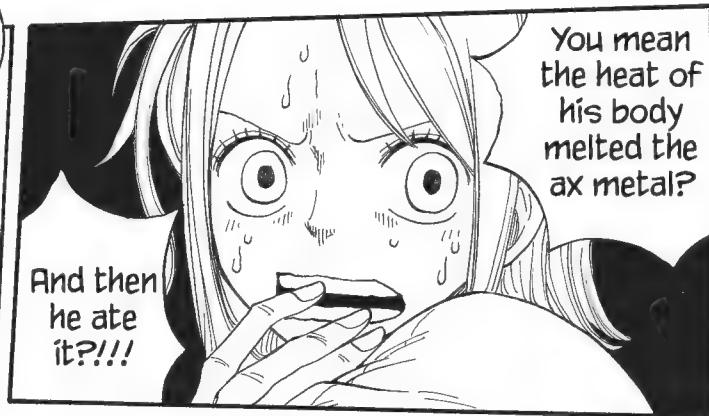
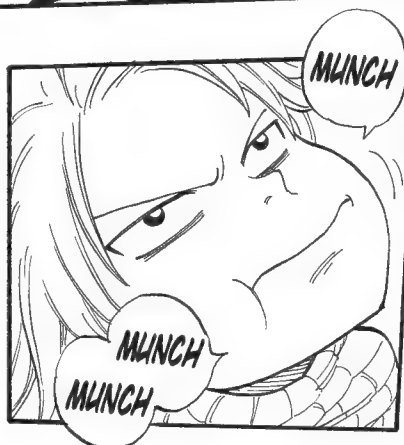
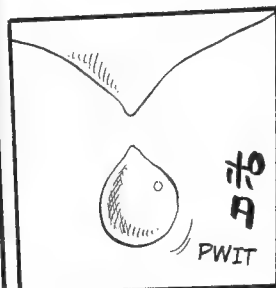
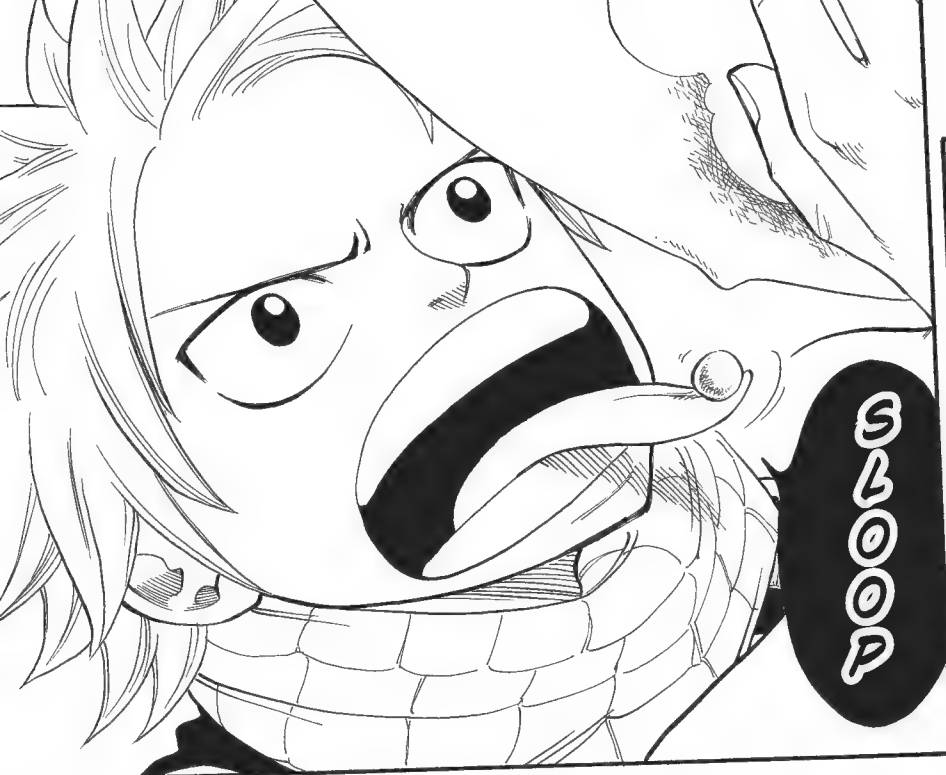


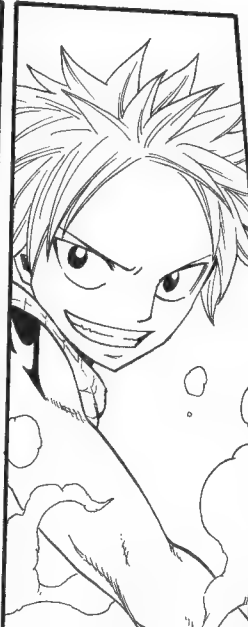
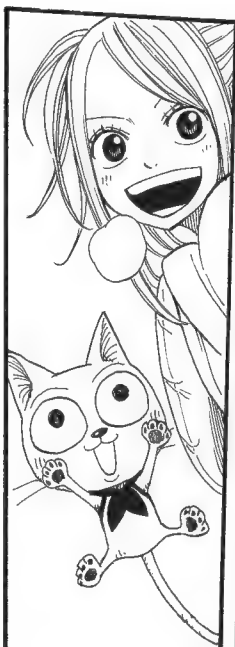
That kind of
thing doesn't
work against
fire!!!

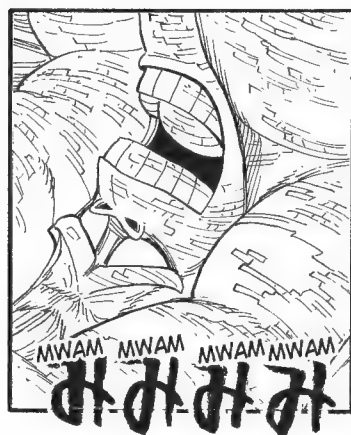


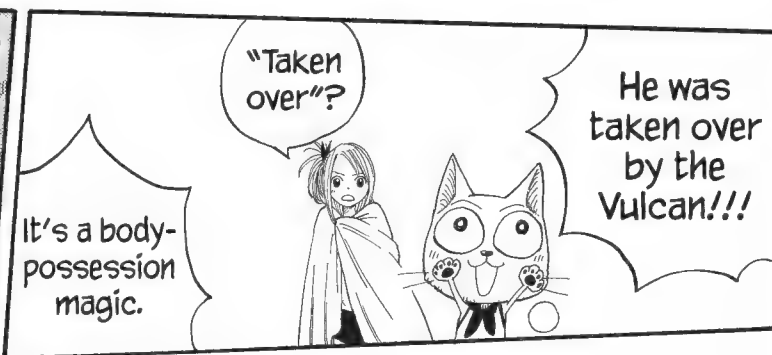
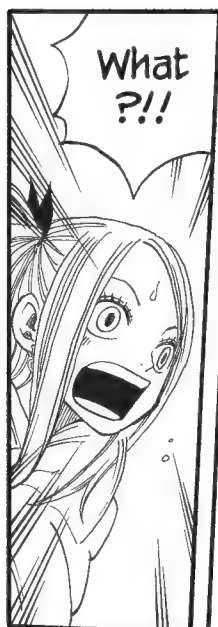


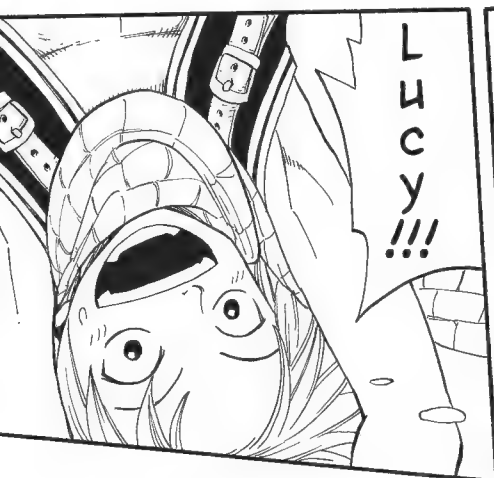


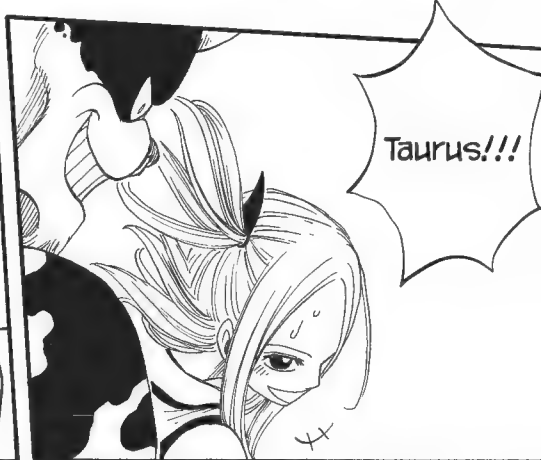
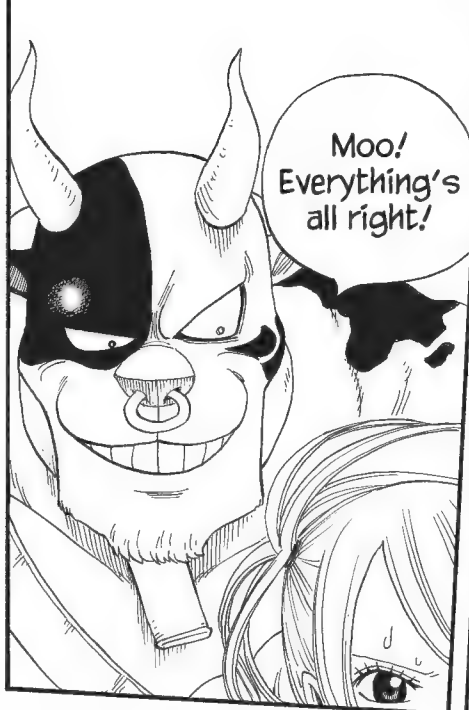


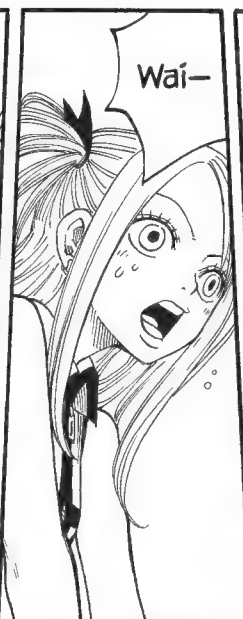














Don't
you dare
die!!!

Macao,
wait a little
longer!!!



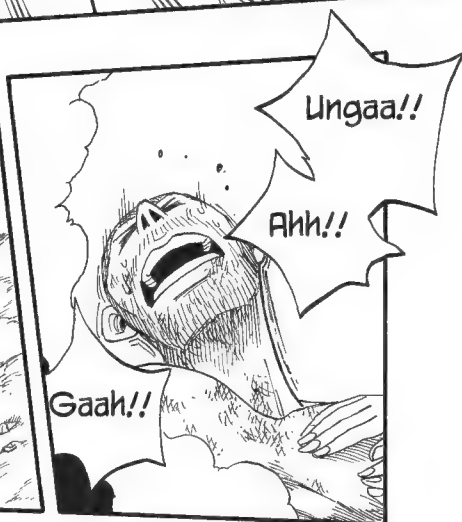
Hahh
Hahh

Dammit...

I'm
ashamed
of
myself.

HAHH
HAHH

I...
brought
down...
nineteen
of 'em...



Ungaa!!

Ahh!!

Gaah!!



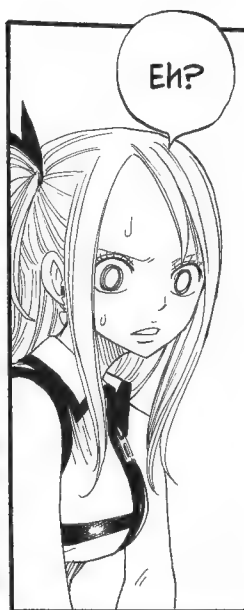
I get it!
Now stop
talking!!!

You're
going to
reopen
your
wound!!!

Uung...

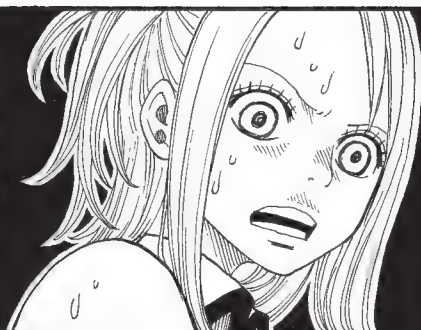
But the
twentieth...
took me...
over...

Gaah!!



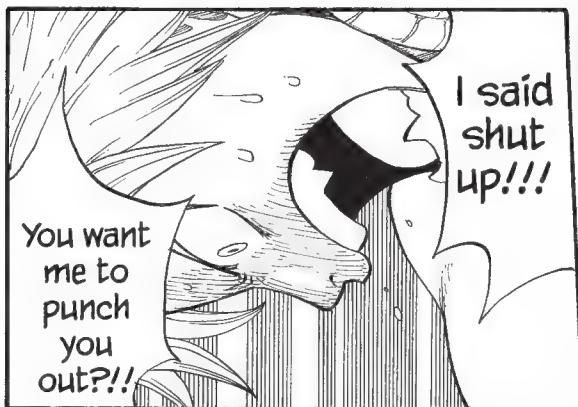
Eh?

He went
out on a
job like
that all
alone?!!



You're
kidding!!
You mean it
wasn't just
one?!!

You want
me to
punch
you
out?!!



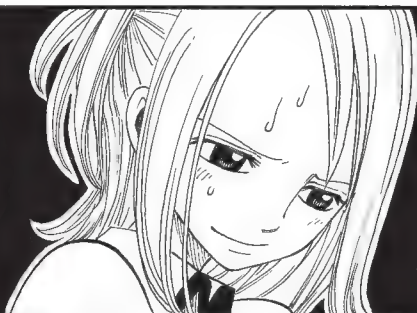
I said
shut
up!!!

I...can't
face...
Romeo
like...
this...

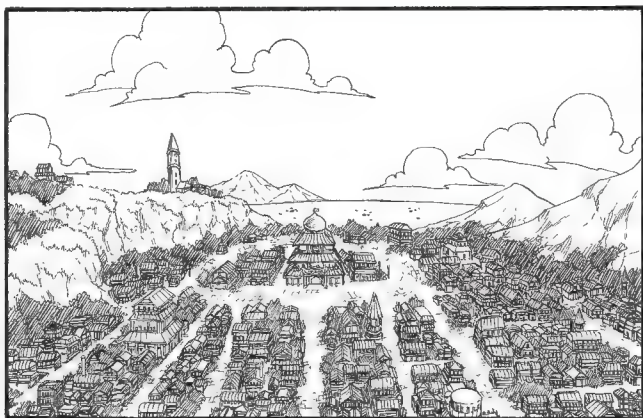
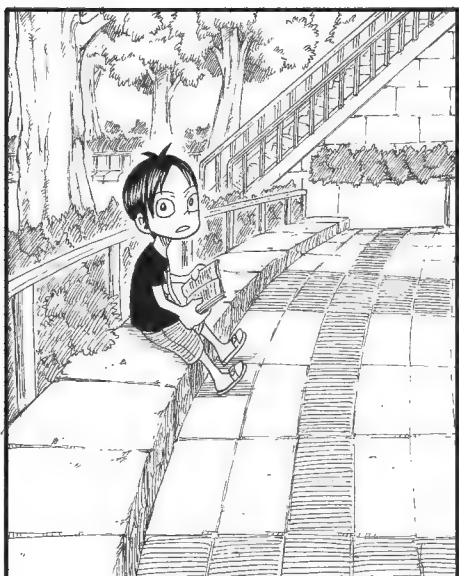


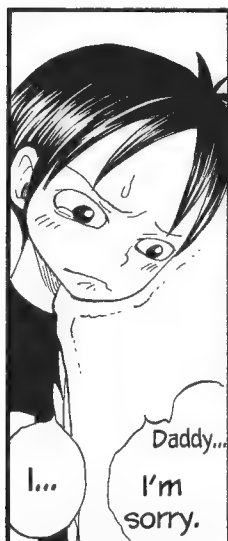
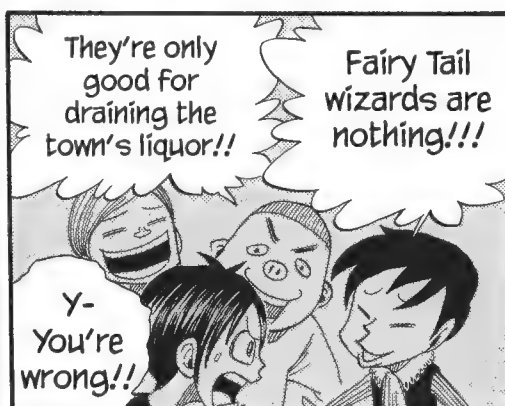
It
gets
to
me...
Dammit!!

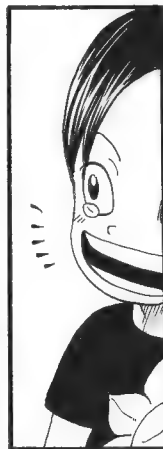
I'm out of
my league
here.



These guys
really are
amazing.



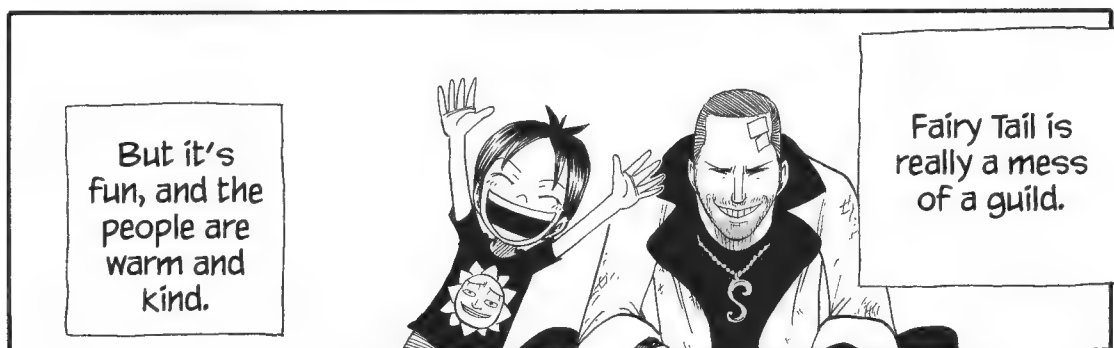






Lucy!! Thank
you, too!!!

July 4th:
Sunny
↓
Blizzard
↓
Sunny



But it's
fun, and the
people are
warm and
kind.

Fairy Tail is
really a mess
of a guild.

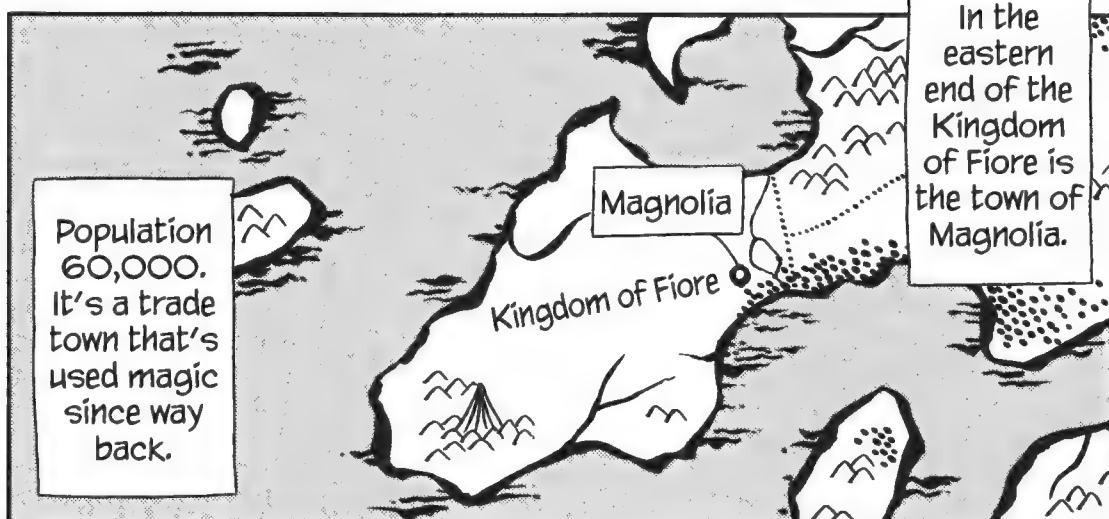


...I already
know that
I'm go-
ing to
love this
place!!!

I'm just
starting
out as a
wizard,
but...

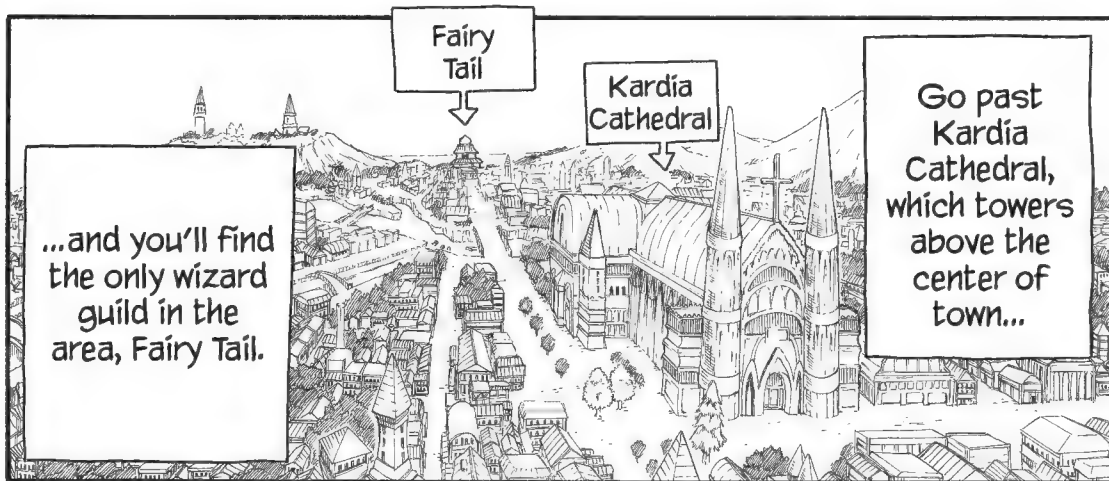
FAIRY TAIL





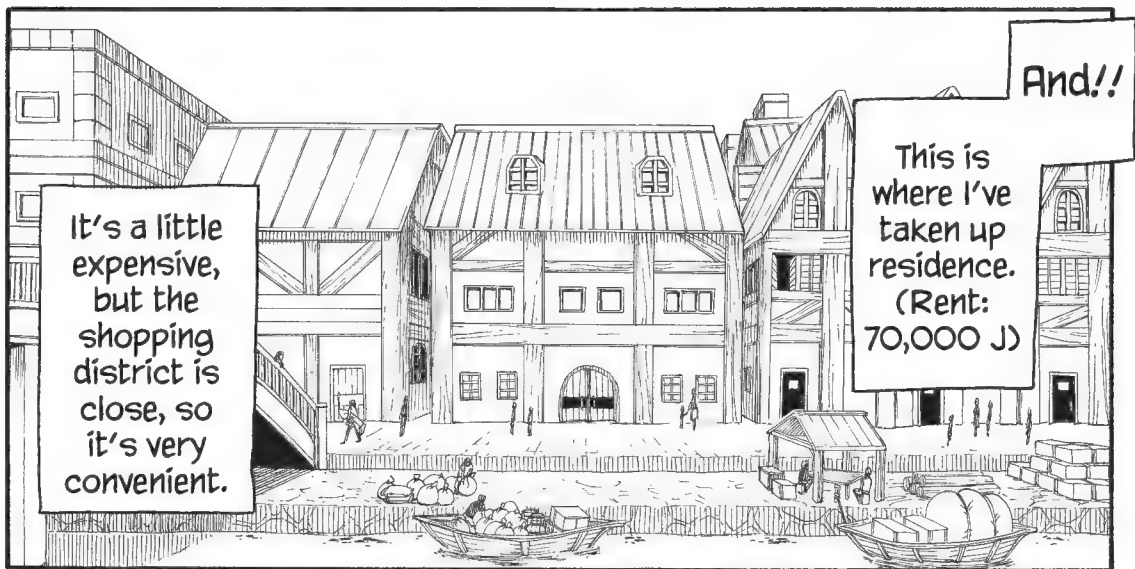
In the eastern end of the Kingdom of Fiore is the town of Magnolia.

Population 60,000. It's a trade town that's used magic since way back.



Go past Kardia Cathedral, which towers above the center of town...

...and you'll find the only wizard guild in the area, Fairy Tail.



And!!

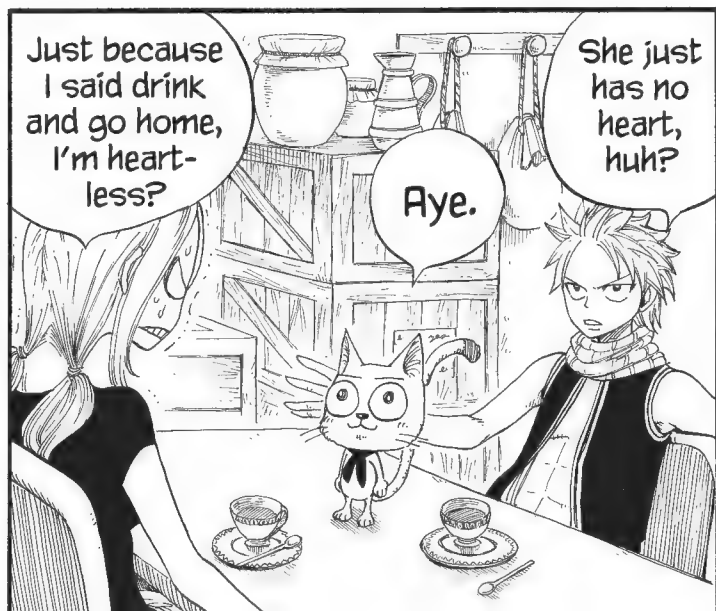
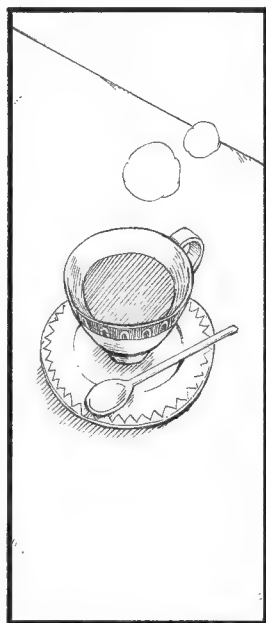
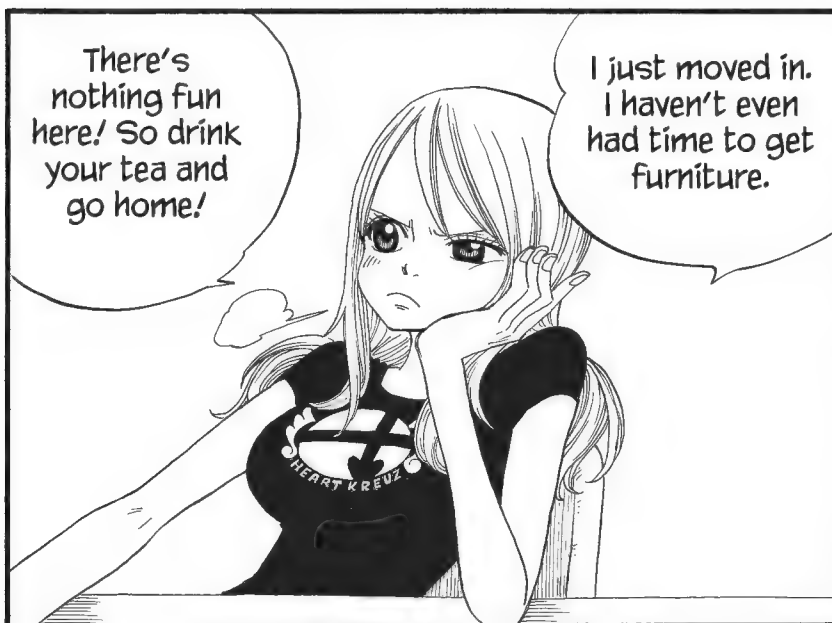
This is where I've taken up residence. (Rent: 70,000 J)

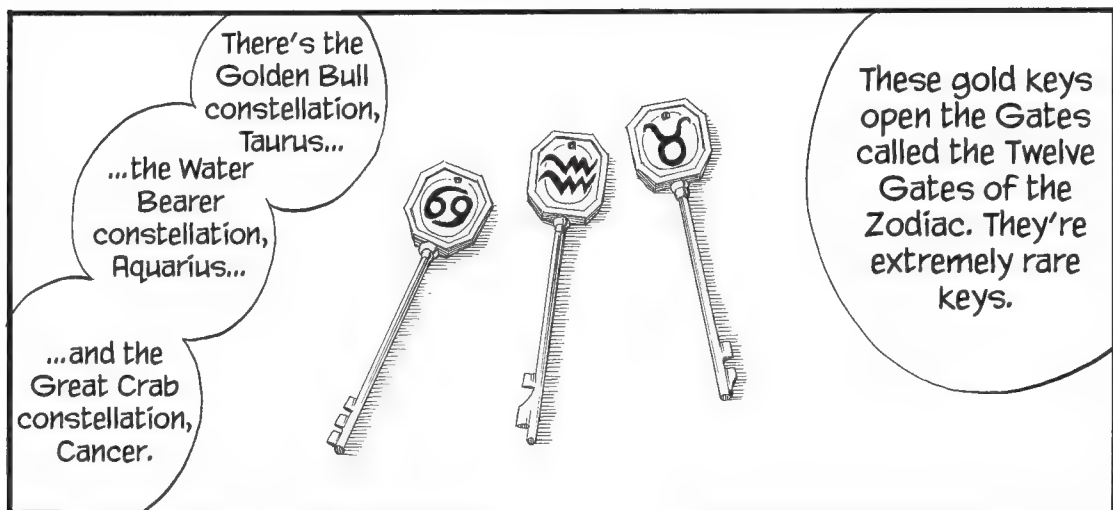
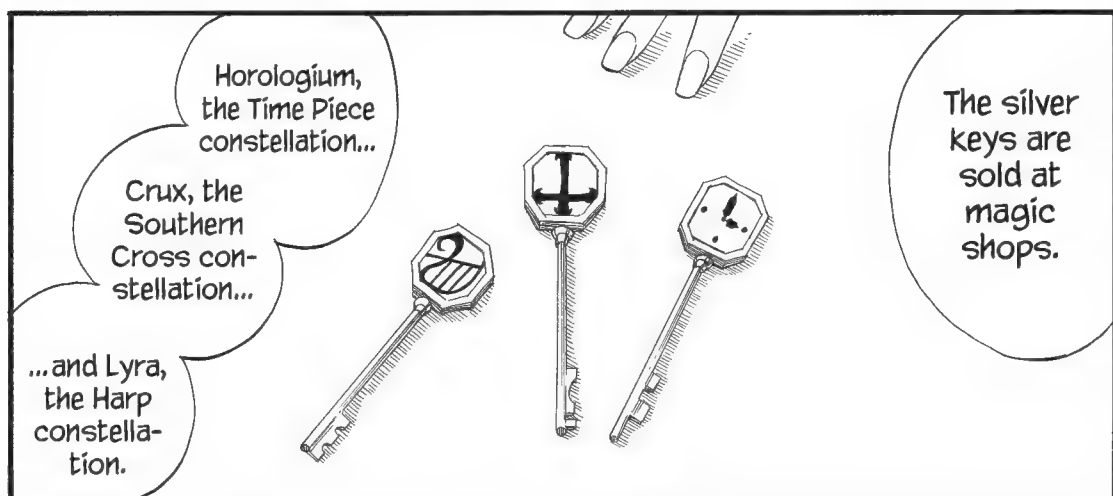
It's a little expensive, but the shopping district is close, so it's very convenient.

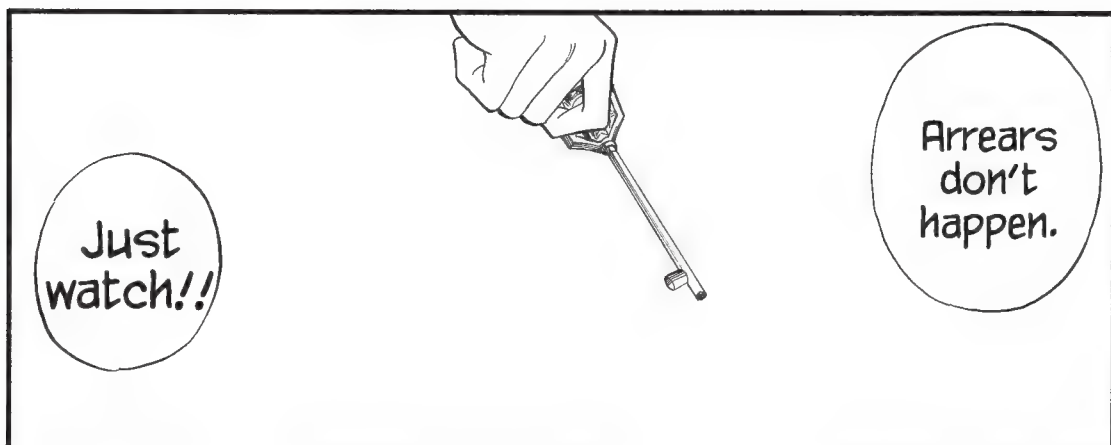
Chapter 4: The Celestial Spirit of Canis Minor







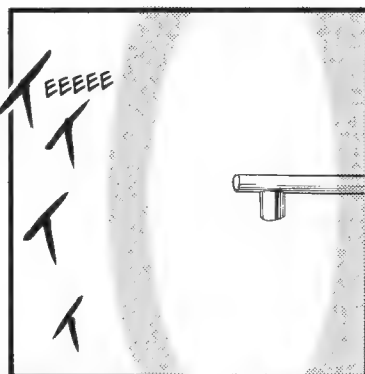






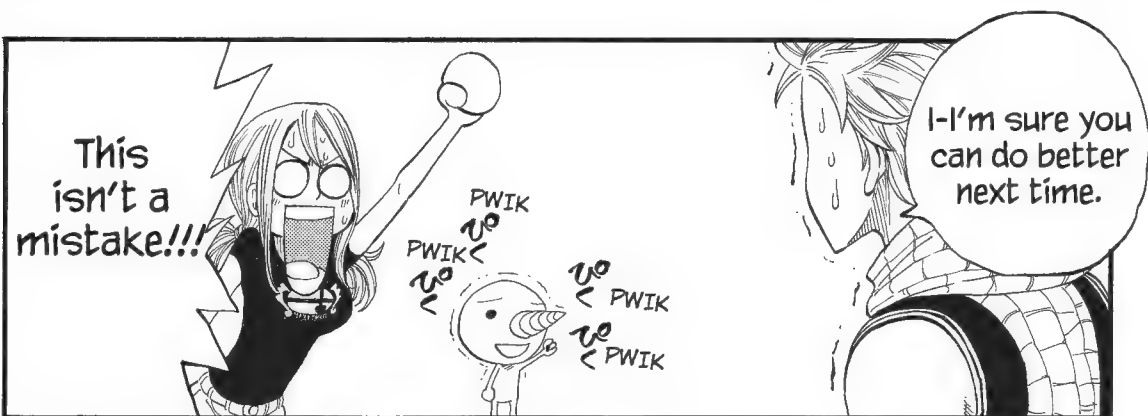
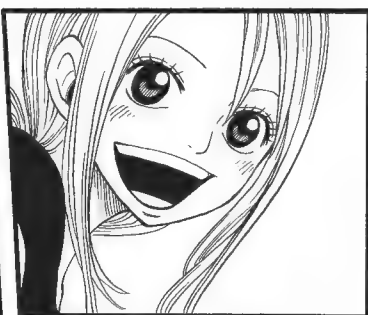
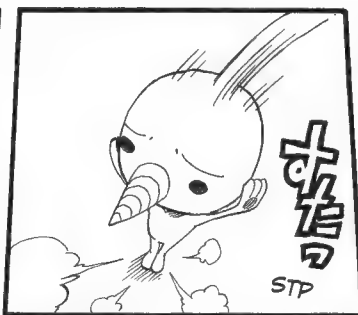
You must
answer
and pass
through
your
Gate!!

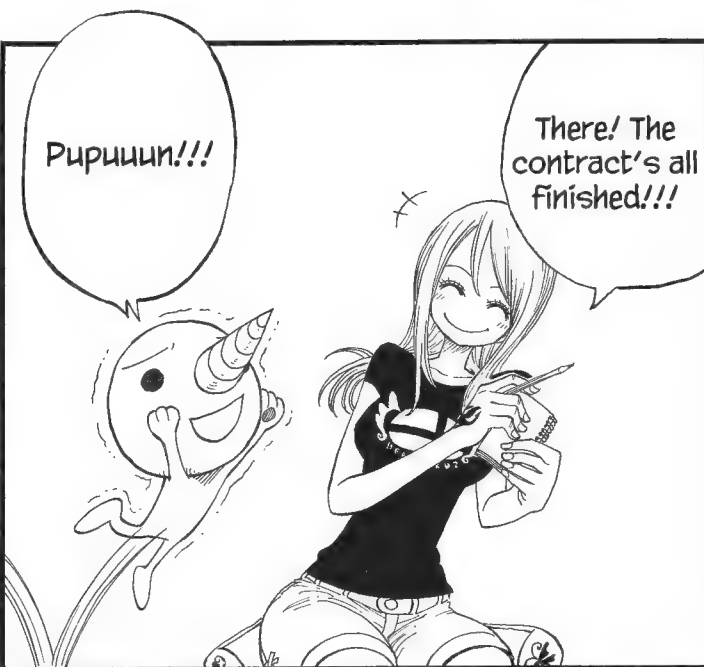
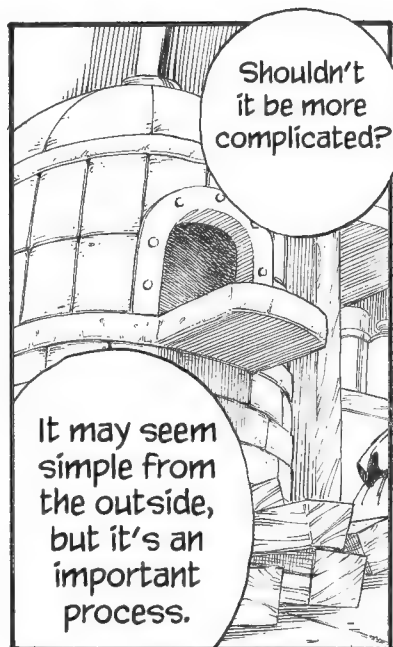
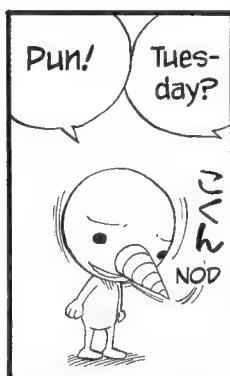
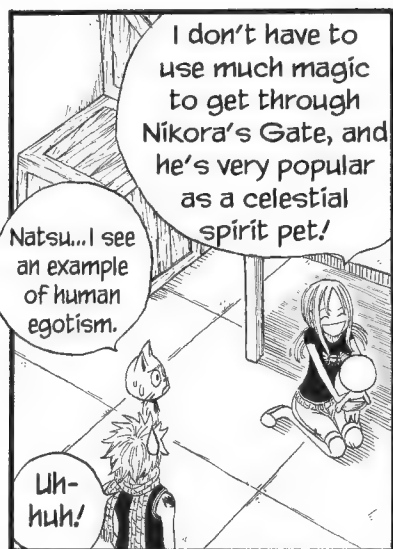
I am one
who cre-
ates paths
to the
celestial
spirit
world!!

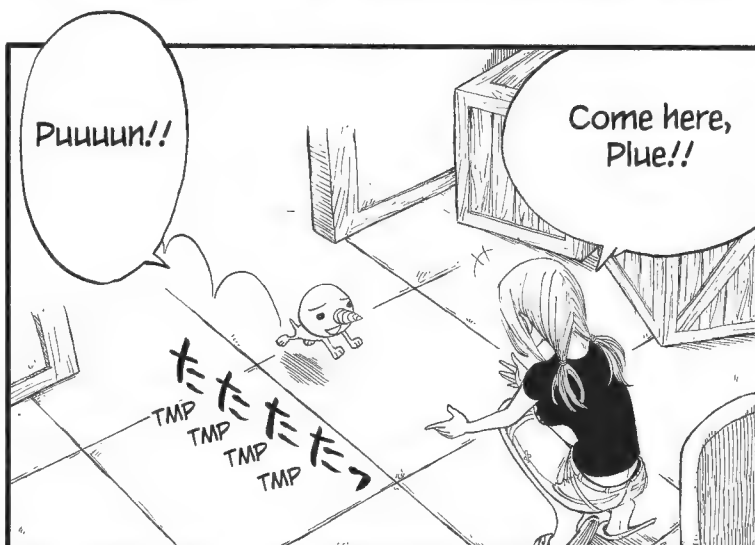
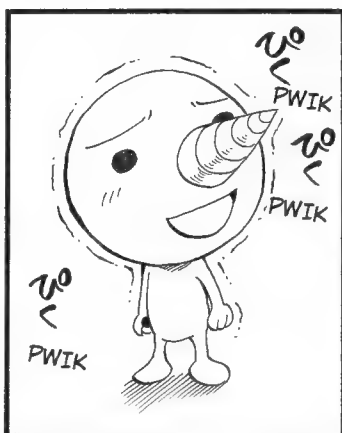
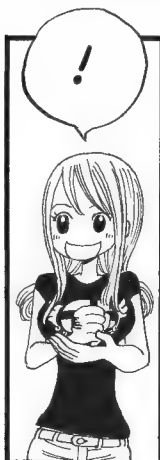


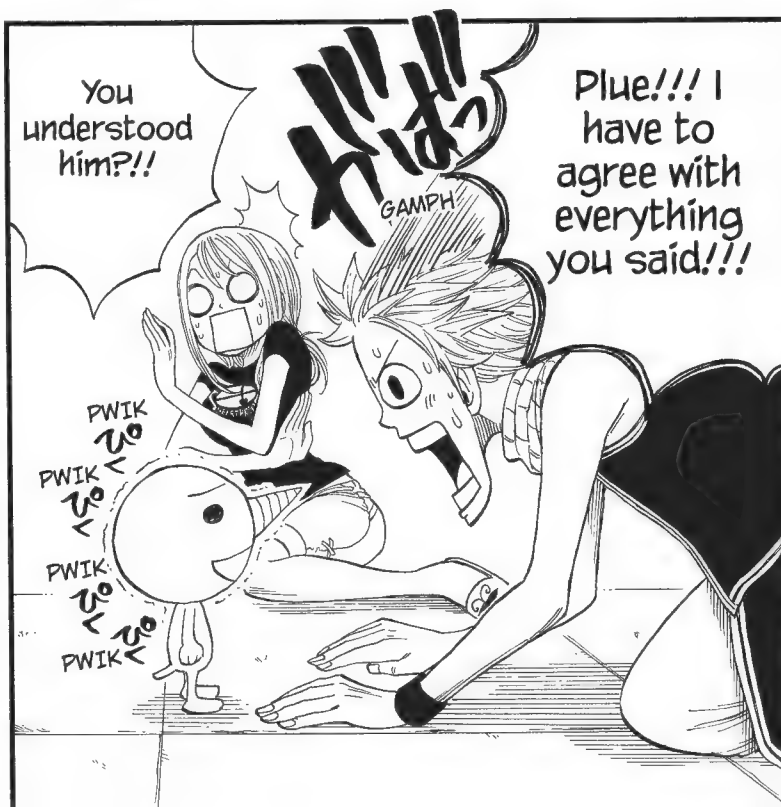
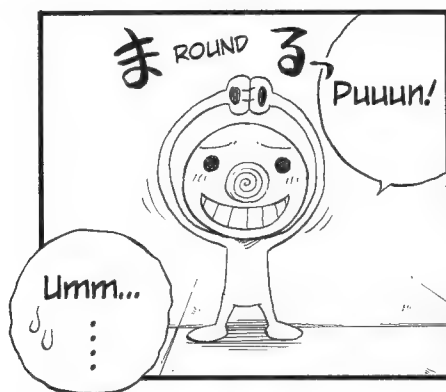
Nikora!!!

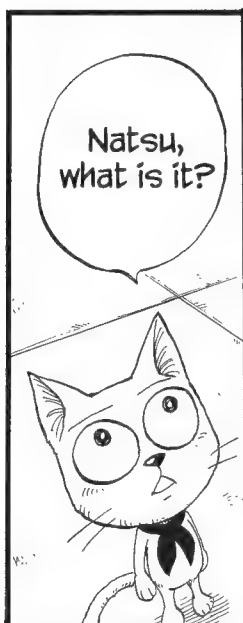
Open,
Gate of
Canis
Minor...













A job that may be too difficult for one might be much easier for a team.

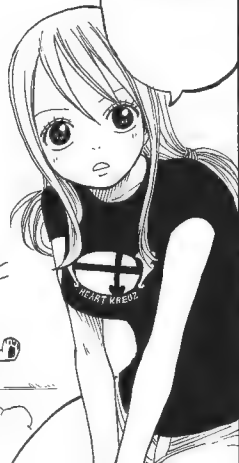
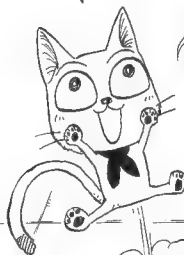
And people who get along especially well organize into smaller teams.

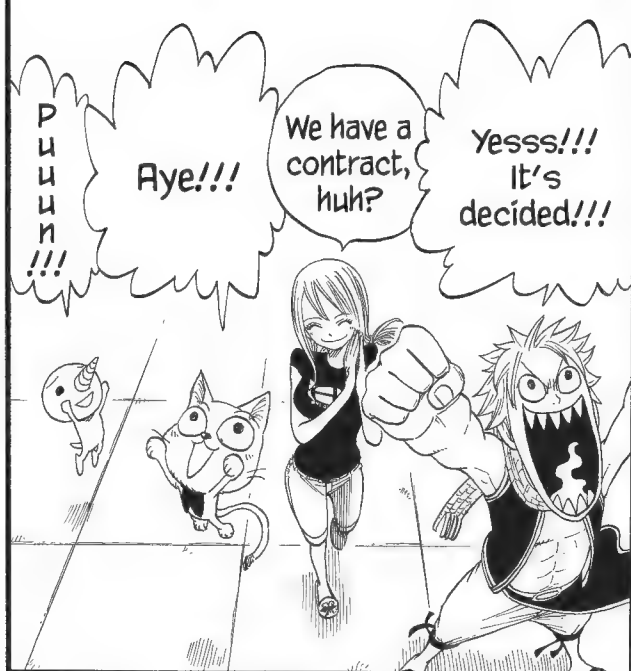
Everyone in the guild is part of the same group.

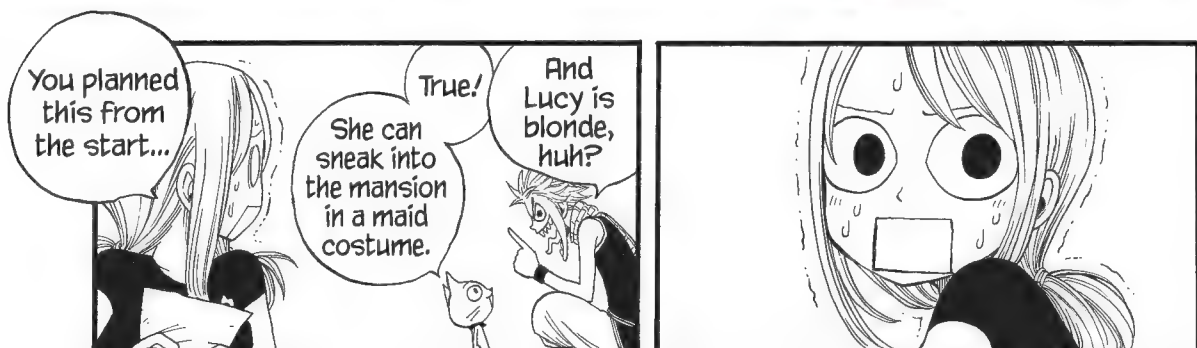
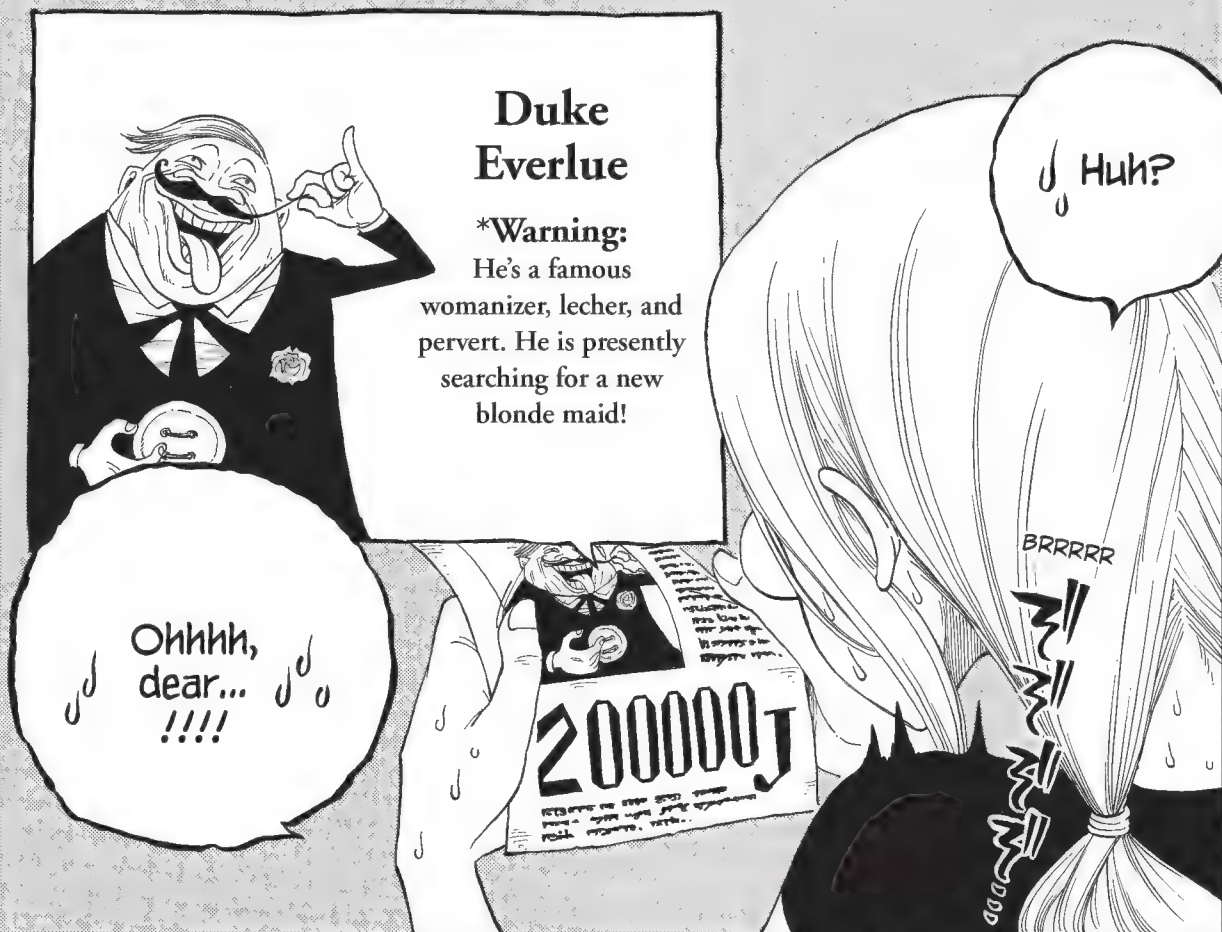
Aye!

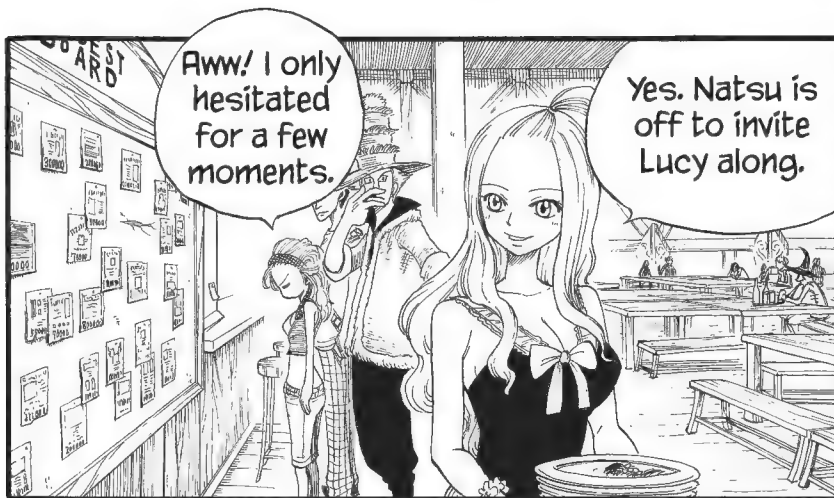
That makes sense!!

Team?





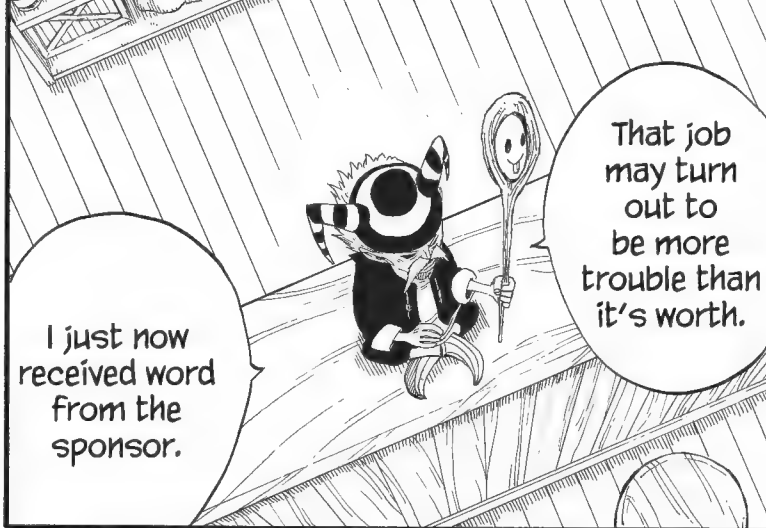






He wants to cancel?

No.



I just now received word from the sponsor.

That job may turn out to be more trouble than it's worth.



He's upped the reward to two million Jewels.

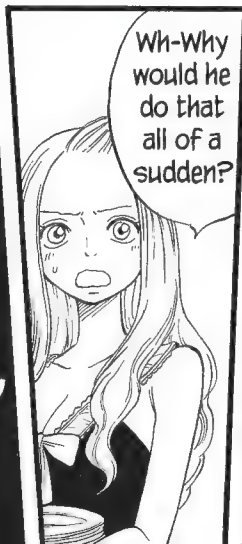
That's what he said.



What's going on with that?!!

That's the kind of reward they give for military action!!

Tsk!! We just passed up a great-sounding job!!



Wh-Why would he do that all of a sudden?

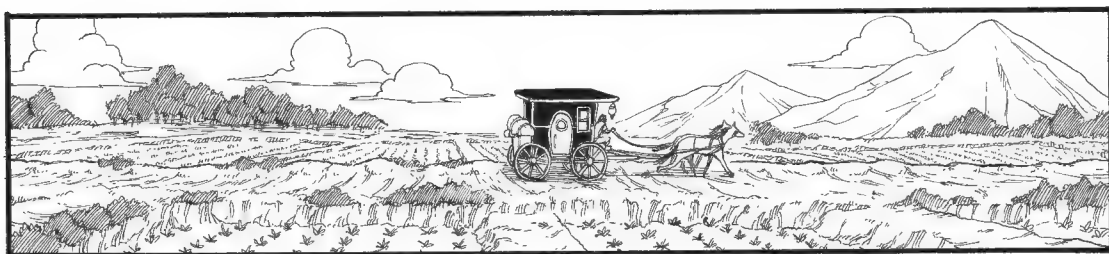


CHATTER



Ten times the amount?!!

Two million just for one book?!!



TO BE CONTINUED

Little Happy's Job



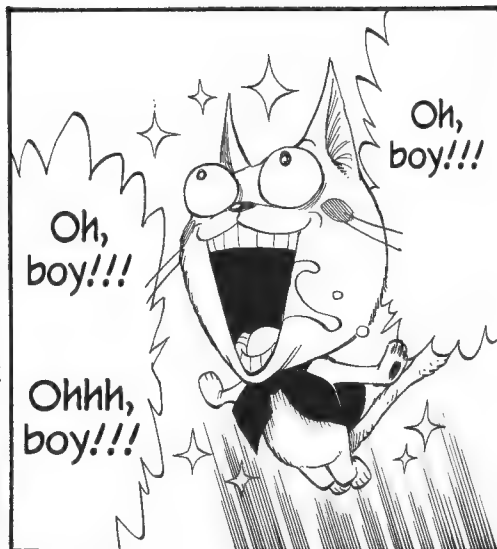
...I found one of the most incredible jobs I'd ever seen!!

One day, when I was looking at the request board at my guild...

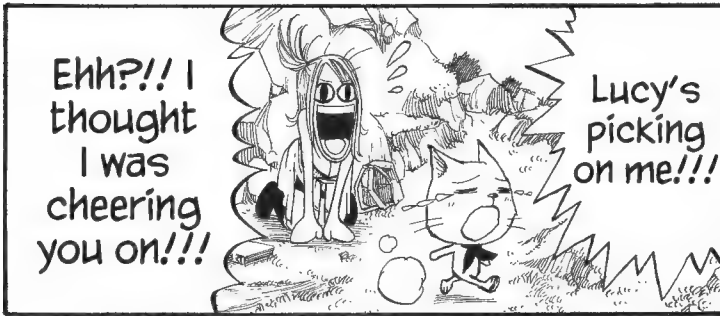
Your reward will be 30,000 J. Plus, we'll eat it together!

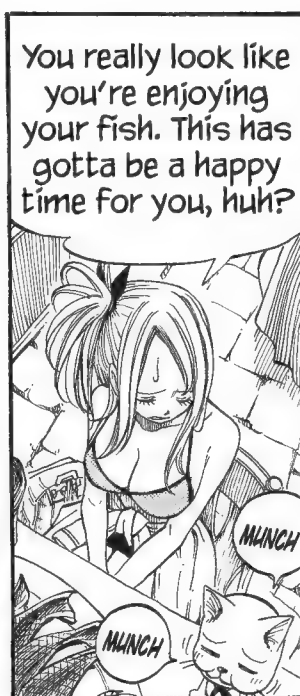
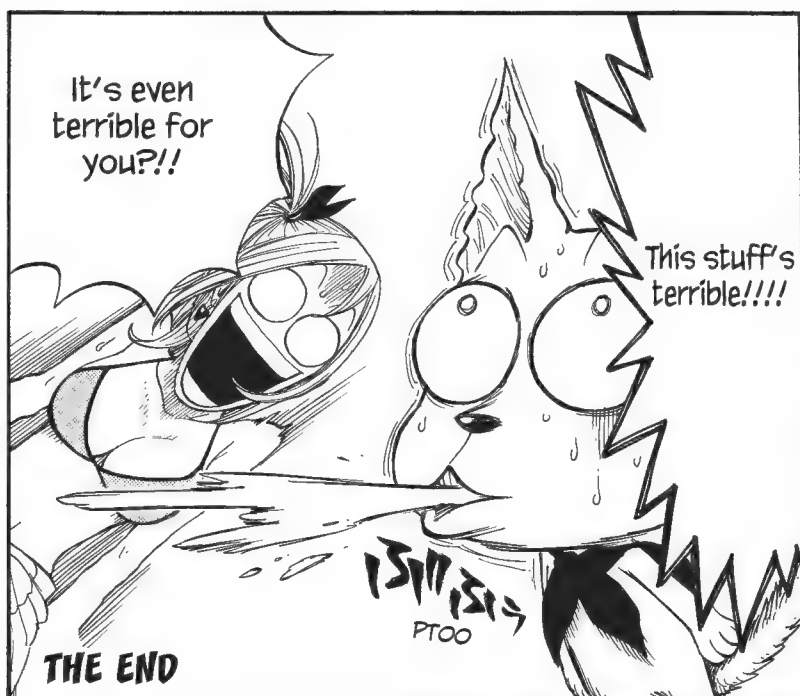
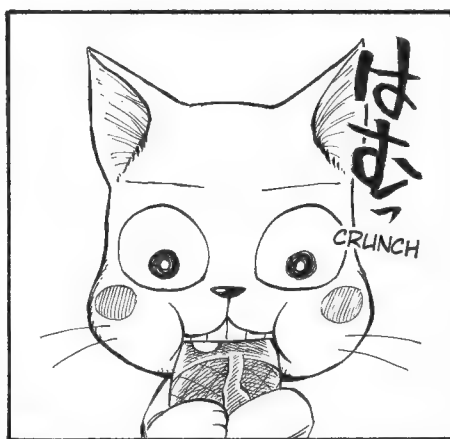
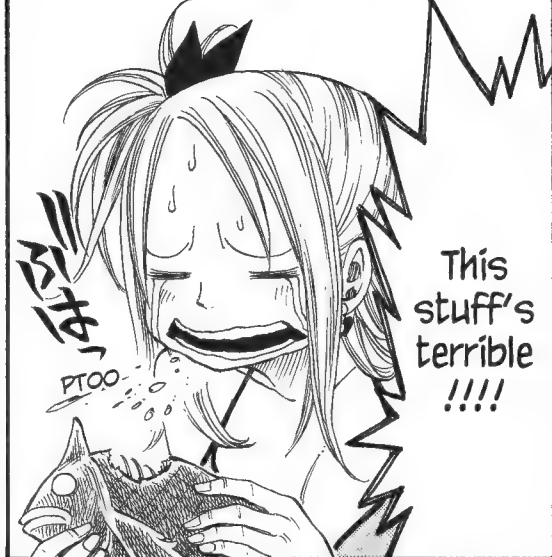
I'd like you to catch an extremely rare delicacy, Hanesakana, the winged fish!











Natsu's Design... Huh? He had horns?

This is what the main character for the short-story version of *Fairy Tail* (actually, it's *Fairy Tale*) looks like. In the short-story version, he was a spirit, but this time he's human, and he's lost the horns.



()



Nice to meet you! Or, long time no see! I'm the author, Mashima. First, let me say thank you for reading the first volume of *Fairy Tail*. Did you enjoy it? I'm planning on making things more and more interesting as we go along, so please join me for the ride.

In this portion of the book, I'm thinking that I'll use the space to talk a little about the behind-the-scenes parts of the manga, recent events in my life, weird things about my editor, or just silly stuff that means nothing. So read it when you have some free time.

For the first volume, I'll tell you the behind-the-scenes story of how *Fairy Tail* was born. Well, it really isn't all that "behind-the-scenes," but... At the very start, it was a story about a guild of couriers and how the fire-using main character, Natsu, carried various things on all kinds of assignments. Even though he's a courier, he gets motion sickness very easily. Natsu of *Fairy Tail* had his motion sickness as a part of his design from the start. The story of how he went from courier to wizard is like this: I pondered how to make the story about a man with a dream. I had the first story about the courier guild pretty much finished, but I became more and more intrigued. And when I came up with the wizard guild idea, and how all sorts of wizards could be gathered in one place, I had pretty much decided to change it to a story about wizards. I can't explain just how excited I was with the thought. One idea after another kept popping into my head. I practically forced my editor to allow me to do it, and I started over from scratch. That's how *Fairy Tail* was born. By the way, the title isn't supposed to be a once-upon-a-time story. It means the tail of a fairy. That may prove to be a pivotal point, but it may not. Well, who cares, really? *[laughs]*

So, from here on, I'm going to do my best to write an interesting story. We'll fly from one thing to the next. (What the hell is that supposed to mean?!!) So expect magic! Let's meet again in volume 2!

About the Creator

HIRO MASHIMA was born May 3, 1977, in Nagano prefecture. His series *Rave Master* has made him one of the most popular manga artists in America. *Fairy Tail*, currently being serialized in *Weekly Shonen Magazine*, is his latest creation.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

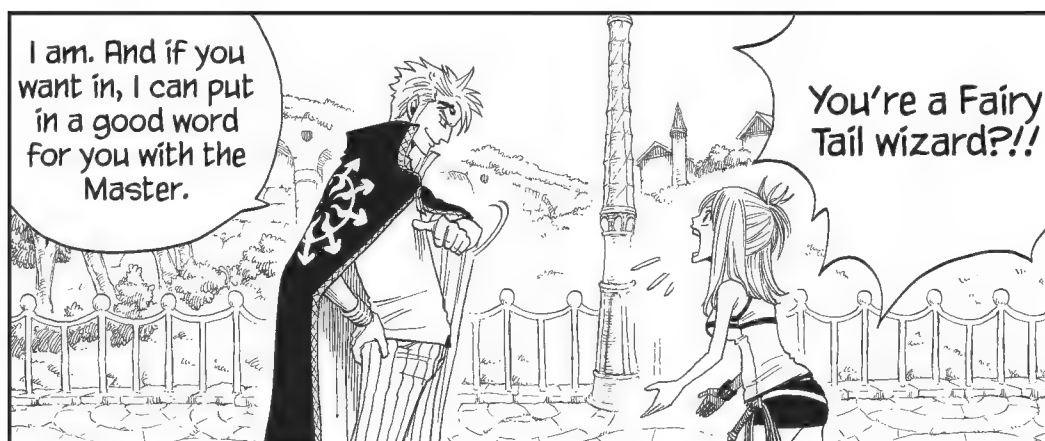
General Note: Wizard

In the original Japanese version of *Fairy Tail*, you'll find panels in which the English word "wizard" is part of the original illustration. So this translation has taken that as its inspiration and translates the word *madôshi* as "wizard." But *madôshi*'s meaning is similar to certain Japanese words that have been borrowed by the English language, such as *judo* ("the soft way") and *kendo* ("the way of the sword"). *Madô* is "the way of magic," and *madôshi* are those who follow the way of magic. So although the word "wizard" is used in the original dialogue, a Japanese reader would be likely to think not of traditional Western wizards such as Merlin or Gandalf, but of martial artists.

Jewels and calculating money, page 12

In fantasy tales, no small part of the story's unique magical world is that world's imaginary currency. In America, fantasy writers tend to depend on their readers' familiarity with American money, attaching a phrase like "silver pieces" to an amount that would be wholly plausible in U.S. dollars. In Japan, the same convention is used, except that the imaginary currency is a substitute for yen. So, in *Fairy Tail*, merchants quote sums like 20,000 Jewels that sound ridiculously huge to American readers but are fairly reasonable to the Japanese. A rough-but-quick currency conversion is 100 yen to the dollar, so when Lucy is told that the White Doggy key is 20,000 J, that would be roughly equivalent to ¥20,000 in Japanese money, or about \$200 U.S. Keeping the amounts so close to the yen/dollar amounts that readers already know makes it easy for them to understand how expensive things are in the fantasy world.





Master, page 32

"Master" is an English loan word that the Japanese have added to their language, but like many loan words, "master" has acquired an entirely different meaning than its English one. In Japan, the owner or manager of a bar or other similar establishment is called the master of the business. The nuances of the word "master" as we know it—that it implies advanced knowledge or skill—have disappeared in its Japanese usage, nor does it imply the "slave owner" definition. It is simply what one calls the person who runs a business.



Thanks for the meal, page 64

This is a rough translation of a ritualistic Japanese phrase. This phrase, *Gochisô-sama*, is said at the end of every meal. It literally means "It was a feast," and it is usually said to the person who cooked the meal or the one who provided it (for example, the person who pays the bill at a restaurant). So ingrained is this habit that one often says it to oneself even after finishing eating a self-prepared meal alone.



What's all this, then? page 77

Yes, this is an old, worn-out cliché that British police are famous for saying when arriving at a crime scene (although I doubt that all that many of them actually use it these days). But it is, in fact, a pretty accurate translation of what was said in Japanese.

Nekomander, page 112

This is a joking play on the name of the villain. The Japanese version used the English word "salamander" as the name of the villain. The Japanese word for cat is *neko*. As translator, I suppose I could have used the translation "catmander" or "kittymander" for Happy's dialogue, but the Japanese word that Happy used, *nekomander*, just had a nice ring to it.



"Forms," page 171

In the original, Lucy is actually explaining how to count celestial spirits. English sometimes uses special counter words for some items. For example, when saying how much paper one has, one counts by pieces or sheets. When saying how many cows one has, one counts by heads of cattle. This is a matter of custom and established usage. The same is true for Japanese, but on a much wider scale. Nearly everything has a special counter word. In the previous panel, Happy asks how many spirits Lucy has, but he asks using the same counter that is used for counting people. So Lucy corrects Happy by telling him they're counted with the counter *tai* (which uses the kanji that means "body"). Although, because they are spirits, "body" is not the most appropriate translation; the somewhat synonymous word "form" can indicate both corporeal bodies and noncorporeal manifestations. It isn't a perfect translation, since English doesn't allow for Happy to make his counter mistake without his dialogue sounding very awkward. But fortunately for the translator, it's in Lucy's character to explain a lot of things for no particular reason.

Nikor, page 172

The constellation Taurus is called Taurus, and the constellation Aquarius is called Aquarius, so why is Canis Minor called Nikora? I have to admit that I don't know. The



famous astronomer Nicolas Louis de Lacaille discovered and coined the names to many constellations, and the Japanese transliterate his first name as Nikora. But he did not name Canis Minor, and he seems to have no other relation to the constellation. If you readers know the answer, please write in to Kodansha and let us know.

Arrears, page 172

This was a pun. When translating a pun, one usually has to choose one of the two meanings to put into the translation (since it is rare that one word can contain the same two meanings in both languages). In this case, Happy asked if one must sign in blood (*ketsuban*), and Natsu misinterpreted the statement, saying that such a thing can hurt one's rear end (*ketsu*). As translator, I decided to take the low road by keeping the "rear end" meaning rather than the "blood contract" meaning. As it turns out, one does not have to sign in blood (nor does one ever come into arrears).

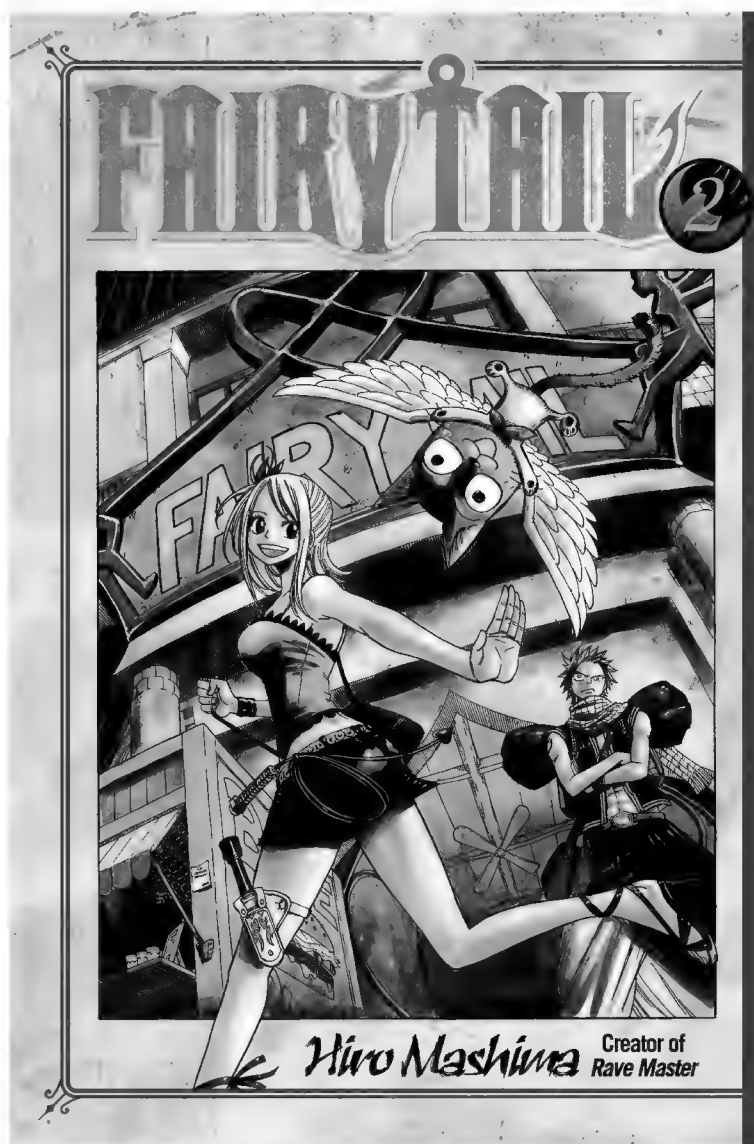


Maid my own hell, page 184

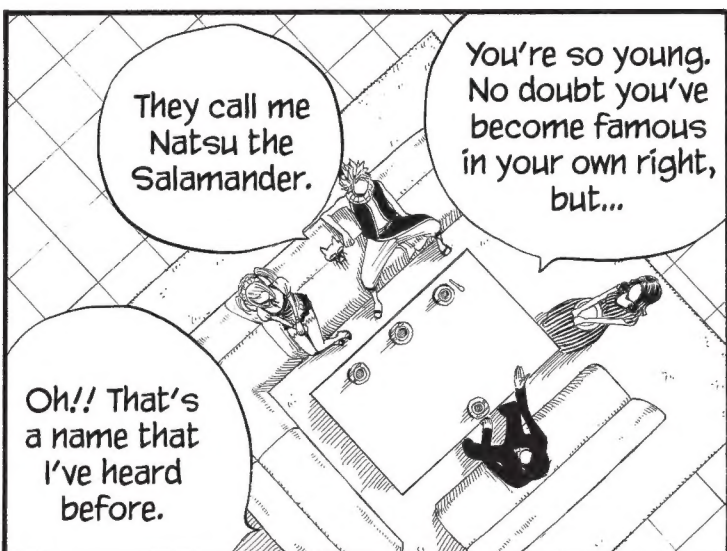
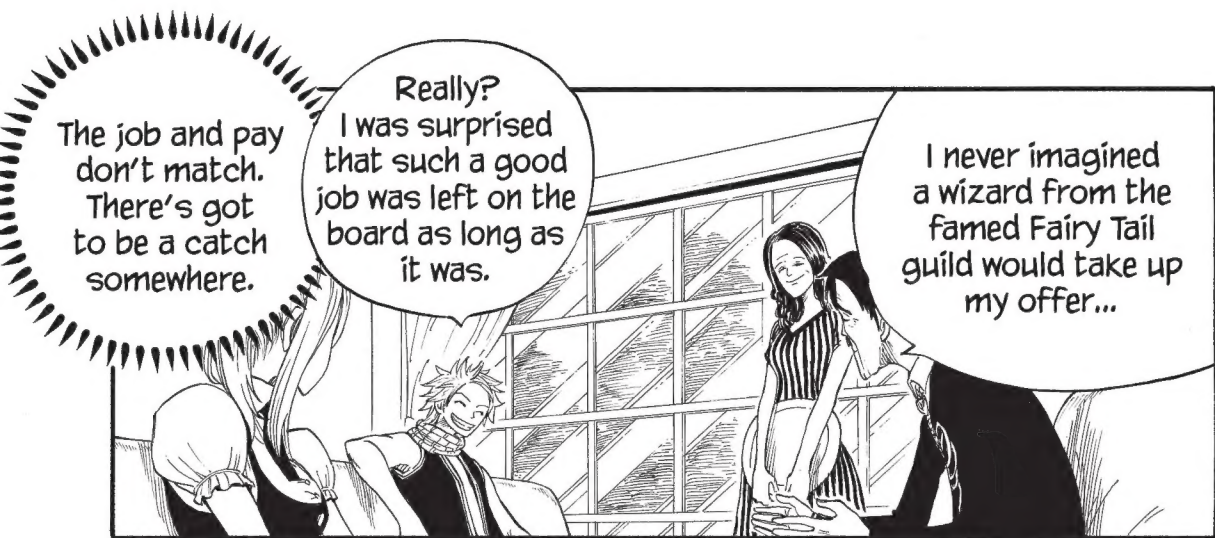
Another pun. In Japanese, one of the words for the underworld is *meido*, which also happens to be the way the Japanese say the English word "maid." I simply took advantage of the fact that "made" and "maid" are homophones in English to make a pun that is still a pretty close equivalent to the Japanese.

Preview of Volume 2

We're pleased to present you with a preview from volume 2, now available from Kodansha Comics. Check out our Web site (www.kodanshacomics.com) for more details!









G U L P



Yes!

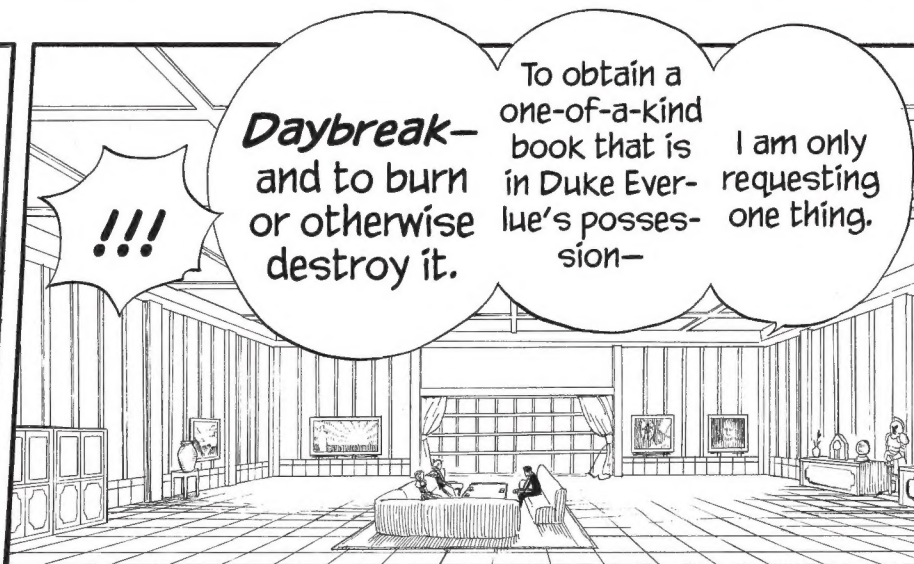
Aye!



Now, shall we talk about the job?



You don't want it stolen for you?

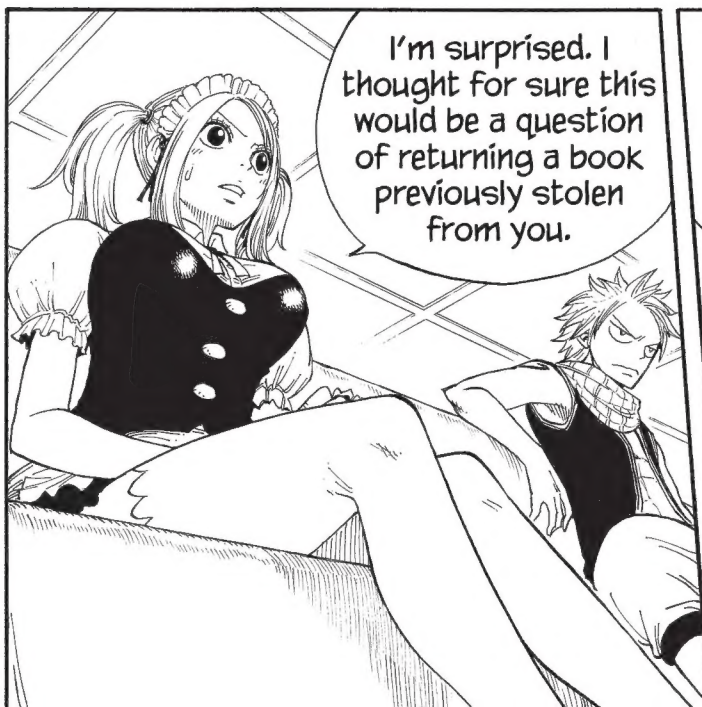


!!!

Daybreak—
and to burn
or otherwise
destroy it.

To obtain a
one-of-a-kind
book that is
in Duke Ever-
lue's posses-
sion—

I am only
requesting
one thing.



I'm surprised. I
thought for sure this
would be a question
of returning a book
previously stolen
from you.



...is very
much the
same as
stealing it,
but...

I suppose, in
reality, obtaining
someone else's
property without
compensation
and destroying
it...



TOMARE!



You're going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different
type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning*,
go to the *end*!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the opposite of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be!